



# The ORACLE

May 15, 2009 Volume 45 Number 16

West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, Virginia

22152

## Girls lacrosse finds trouble in Florida Nine on team punished for shoplifting at surf shop and at Disney World

By Krista Pedersen  
Oracle Editor

*The following story is the second in a series of articles about the school's culture and social climate. The last story in this series will run in the May 29 issue.*

While on their Spring Break trip to Florida, several members of the girls Varsity lacrosse team received suspensions from the team for shoplifting at a Ron Jon Surf Shop. Less than half of the team was believed to be involved.

Further investigation by the administration, however, revealed that the shoplifting went beyond the surf shop, and that two other players also stole merchandise from shops at Disney World. A total of nine players received some kind of punishment for the incidents.

Sources provided a chronology of events leading up to the lacrosse player suspensions. These same sources confirmed that those who shoplifted during the trip acted on their own, and that the crimes were not committed as part of a team "initiation."

The girls lacrosse team incident comes during a time that our school is beginning to reflect on student values and integrity. The administration has set up a committee composed of faculty and student members to address the broad issue of Spartan values.

### Spartan Values

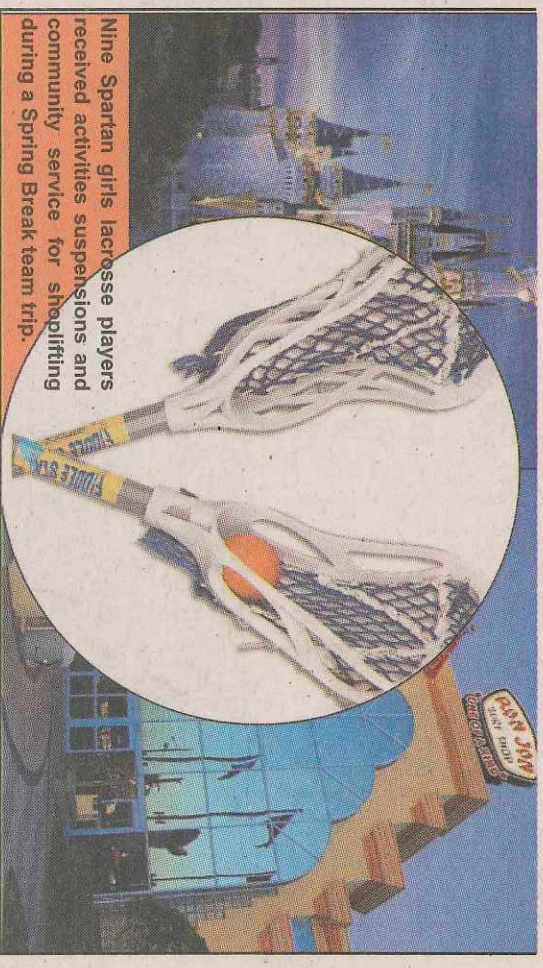
Student Activities Director Andy Muir, who was closely involved in sorting out the issues related to the lacrosse team shoplifting charges, said that, ultimately, he hoped students learned something from the incident.

"Any time something [like this] happens I always hope the students involved look at it as a learning experience and the students not involved use it as a learning experience," said Muir.

On Sunday, April 5, the team had time away from playing in their tournament and went out to explore the activities Florida had to offer. Some team members went to the beach, while a large number went shopping.

While leaving the Ron Jon store in Cocoa Beach, however, one underclass member of the team was caught shoplifting, and police summoned to the store placed her under arrest. Other team members were in the store at this time and several had shoplifted without being caught.

According to multiple team members who did not wish to be named for this story, the girls called Head Coach Brian Publuck and other adult chaperones to explain what had happened. Publuck learned that the Ron Jon security cameras had photographed at least



Nine Spartan girls lacrosse players received activities suspensions and community service for shoplifting during a Spring Break team trip.

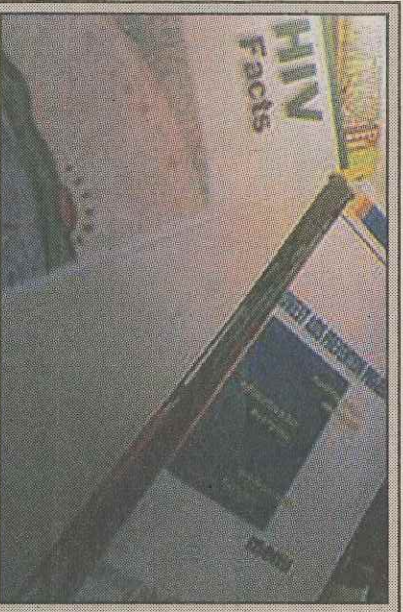
Oracle photo illustration: Disney World, Ron Jones

two other team members shoplifting, as well. Senior Class Administrator Becky Brandt said Publuck called Muir at around this time to discuss the situation and the steps that should be taken.

Lacrosse players told *The Oracle* that Publuck then called a team meeting. Several players, the girls said, showed up wearing goods that they had shoplifted earlier. Players were told to confess in private to the coaching staff if they had stolen anything from the

store. Six additional players confessed. According to all team members interviewed, some of the girls who confessed initially claimed that they had been influenced by the upperclassmen on the team to shoplift, but the seniors were adamant that they had no plans for any initiations and the administrators discredited those accounts, as well.

"When we heard about it, it was a sad thing to think that we had so many people that See "Girls Lacrosse" on Page 5.



Before they walk across the stage at the Patriot Center on June 15, all seniors will get AIDS education through their Government classes as part of FGPPS's FLE program.

**Before graduating, seniors get one more dose of sex ed**  
By Rebecca Naramore  
Oracle Editor

Senior year just got a little more interesting. As part of the Government curriculum, seniors will be getting a course on AIDS education.

As part of a state law, the program is a curriculum requirement for graduating seniors.

"We talk about the methods of transmission and different ways of prevention," said US Government teacher Elizabeth Jackson-Pettine.

Every year since elementary school students have had some sort of course on family life education. With the gap See "Sex-Ed" on Page 5

## Boys lacrosse wins District title After early deficit, Spartans rally to defeat Annandale for win

By Ally Mackin  
Senior Staff Writer

With muscles aching, sweat dripping and getting off to a slow start, the boys Varsity Lacrosse team knew they had to turn the game around in order to win Patriot District Championship.

At the end of the first quarter the team had already let in seven goals by the Annandale Atoms. The team re-grouped, talked strategy and responded to the problems. For the team it was play to continue, win or go home. By the second quarter the Spartans tied it up, 7 to 7. The team surrounded each other, looked at the score and hyped themselves up.

"We've worked since last May for this day," said Head Coach Scott Setter. "The Atoms were the ones who knocked us out last year. We were the better team. Playing at our home, we decided to keep the banner for ourselves."

The preparation for Patriot District Championship consisted on becoming mentally focused, have a lot of determination and being physically fit. The team practiced hard the day before the big game while still managing to keep things less stressful.

"In the end we wanted it more. The evidence was shown on the score board," said junior TJ O'Connell.

Without losing hope in the beginning, the team never doubted their talent. They knew they were the better team no matter what the score. The lacrosse boys turned their deficit around and turned their game on. The final score for the game was 16 to 10, Spartans with the win.



Spartan Sports

Junior Reese Mullins and the boys lacrosse team beat Annandale to capture the Patriot District title. The victory was sweet, since we lost the title game to the Atoms last year.

With the momentum from the big win, the boys plan to carry that on to Regionals and fulfill their goal of winning states. With a record of 13 wins and three losses, the team feels they're season is far from over.

"We put a lot of time in the off season. We've worked hard to come this far. PDC is a small step for our team. We don't feel like we've gone as far as we need to yet," said senior Trevor Krepps.

**Tri-Wizard Cup winners.**



**Backstreet is not back.**



**iTunes extorts.**



# Save the sex for after school

## Have some class, please, and go to your classes instead

Sex is like math: You add the bed, subtract the clothes, divide the legs and pray you don't multiply. Although this equation seems accurate, it's not appropriate for the math hallway.

As gross as it may sound, students go just about anywhere on campus to get hot and heavy during school. They search for secluded areas throughout school grounds to engage in sexual activities. Not only is it disturbing that they can't wait until after school, this behavior is also demeaning to them and to us.

The bathrooms, the Japanese Garden and Spartan Park are popular places to get busy. Bathrooms are a place to relieve yourself, not your sexual tension. The Japanese Garden, surrounded entirely by classrooms, is for relaxation, not for sexual delight.

Spartan Park is relatively isolated, but many students eat lunch on the benches when the weather's nice and cars drive by frequently, which could impose on these risqué couples.

We don't doubt, however, that students have found many other places to get it on.

In addition to these locations for Spartan sexcapades, students are also "sexting." The term describes the act of send-

## Editorial

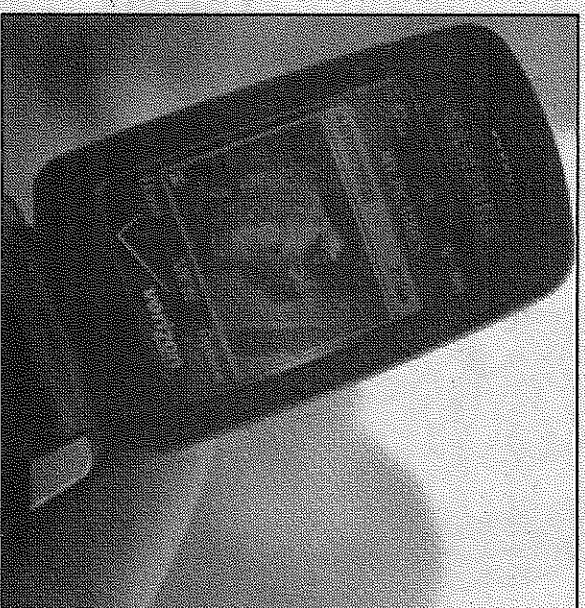
ing sexually explicit text messages, which sometimes include nude pictures. These bold individuals don't seem to realize that the pictures they send are passed from phone to phone exposing them to the Cyber World.

Do they not remember last year's Westfield incident, in which a naive freshman sent nude pictures of herself to an older guy whom she trusted? These pictures were sent from school to school. Even we got the Westfield "sex" here. Think before you send, is all we have to say.

Even the Fairfax County Police Department perceives sexting as a Spartan problem. Community concern has grown so abundant that the police held a meeting in our cafeteria Wednesday evening to address those worries.

Not only could sexting students ruin their reputations, but they could even get suspended if the administration finds out. Even more harsh punishment could also await you. You do know sexting is against the law, right?

Sex isn't really allowed in schools. People talk—this is high school. Rumors—which turn out sometimes to be true—



Florida Sun-Sentinel

"Sexting," or the act of sending sexually explicit text messages that include pictures, has become more common, prompting the Fairfax Police to hold a meeting here this week.

start oral sex in the cafeteria, and everyone knows about it. In the end, we realize that people fantasize about the risk of being caught in the act, yet self-respect should outweigh the thrill. You should get some class and go to class.

# How to ask girls to Prom for dummies

By Aly Mackin & Chelsea Schuster  
Senior Staff Writers

Sorry boys, pressure's on, Prom's just around the corner.

Potential dates are expecting to be asked in elaborate ways. Over the years, imaginative seniors have created scavenger hunts, puzzles and many other original things. Every year the stress of topping past year's ideas is daunting.

For those who have not started brainstorming here's your wake-up call: It's time to get started.

We don't care if you've already got seniors and have been slacking on everything, at least put some effort in the way you ask. We realize that you couldn't care less about how you ask the girl, but it is important to her, so put on your thinking caps and get to work. We spend so much time and money on looking good for you that the least you could do is make an effort.

With less than one month left, it's time to start scrambling for a date.

People need to start planning on matching taxis, finding groups, getting limos and making reservations. Remember there are a lot of schools in this area, with a lot of seniors, trying to make reservations also. Popular res-

For those who have not started brainstorming, here's your wake-up call: It's time to get started.

taurants may already be filled if you wait too long.

If you hear that more than one person is planning to ask the girl you want to, ask you have two choices, beat the others to it, or find another possible candidate. Girls are starting to worry whether or not they're going to be asked.

If you plan on bringing a date from another school, think twice, because there are many possibilities here at WS and you may get shunned. But be careful who you choose from this school too, underclassmen are a second priority.

Even if you can't think of a unique way of asking, don't let that hold you back. Being asked is better than not being asked at all. All the stress of asking shouldn't scare you off from having a good time. Relax, plan and ask.



Kim Krogh

As a junior, 2008 graduate Mary Ashley Krogh was asked to Prom by senior Matt Greene through a message in a shared snack of Cinnabons.

## Orange Staff

### Editors

Monica Evans  
Sam Landers  
Jalce Servan

### Entertainment Editors

Lauren Sipple  
Cristina Sullivan  
ETC. Editors  
Kevin Pike  
Samuel Tak

### Features Editors

Celine Donohue  
Megan Winstlow

### Page One Editors

Thomas Arale

### Scoop Editors

Xavia Warner  
Chloe Gould

### Sports Editors

Sydney Outgley  
Ben Lockwood

### Viewpoint Editors

Kyle Snyder

### Weekend Editor

Gianina Baiges  
Ashley Brigham  
Casey Miller

# The ORACLE

The Oracle is a student-run publication designed to inform and entertain the West Springfield High School community. We publish articles written with as little reporter bias as possible. Opinion is expressed in Viewpoint, Forum and ETC., and in reviews and signed columns. Editorials represent the opinion of at least two-thirds of the staff and do not reflect the views of the adviser, the administration or the Fairfax County Public Schools. The Oracle reserves the right to reject advertising deemed inappropriate. Signed letters-to-the-editor and personal commentary will be considered for publication, but could be edited for grammar, spelling, and space.

## Both Staffs

### Managing Editors

Stephanie Maxwell  
Jessica Wohlers

### Staff Writers

Veronica Adams  
Sara Blaylock  
Susie Cho

### Brigitte Gonzales

Kim Langlais

### Aly Mackin

Josh McNamara  
Sarah Mustion

Jennifer Nguyen

### Photo Editor

Ellie Greene

### Business/Systems Editor

Inderbir Bal

### Business/Systems Assistants

Dhiva Goel  
Luis Lester

Ryan Miller

### Adviser

Brooke Ramey Nelson

## Blue Staff

### Editors

Cann McCallum  
Rebecca Naranore  
Krista Pedersen

### Entertainment Editors

Mia DeSantis  
Chelsea Schuster  
ETC. Editors  
Kelly Carlin

### Features Editors

Summer Clawson  
Bridget Crowley  
Danielle Mazzuchi

### Page One Editors

Susan Nguyen  
Mike Steblein

### Forum Editors

Katie Kinzel

### Sports Editors

Arnela Simpson  
Emmie Cleveland

### Viewpoint Editors

Kaitie Harrison  
Lisa Williams

### Weekend Editor

Lacey Woolf  
Tiffany Clark  
Julie Parisi

# Debated no homework policy a bang or a bust?

**By Mike Stablein**  
Page One Editor

When you get out of school in the afternoon, you are ecstatic about your day. Your plans are endless until you remember...you have homework.

Homework is an unnecessary addition to an already long and grueling school week. Students attend school for roughly 33 hours a week. This number is comparable to an adult's typical work week. But students have other responsibilities as well.

Students are usually involved in extra-curricular activities and sometimes also have a paying job that they need to finance their future college education.

And then there is homework. A typical student can expect one and a half hours of homework every night assuming that 30 minutes of homework is necessary for each of the three block periods. However many students engaged in AP course find that they have more work than this amount. This time might be necessary for practice but it is the most efficient way to prepare students for success?

The goal of homework is to give students additional practice at subjects which are difficult and take more than the 90 minute block period to master. But homework goes about this task the wrong way.

Students should prioritize their time spent on academics according to which subjects

they need the most help in. To do a large amount of homework in a class that you have a 110 percent average in makes no sense. So instead of having to do 60 math problems on material that is super easy, why not spend that time studying the 1950's in your history class.

The answer is that homework limits a student's ability to prioritize. If homework did not exist, or was not a required grade, students could turn their attention to the areas of their academics that really need it.

It is an inefficient system that needs to be reformed. Looking into the future, we need to find ways to make public education more efficient. Homework is an old practice that does not utilize new technology.

Sometimes it is easier to learn about a subject from an online resource than a textbook full of exercises. Instead of being required to read an old outdated textbook, why not use Askjeeves to find an answer? The student should work smarter, not harder.

The initiative to wipe away graded homework practices and to make it a student responsibility is a great idea. It sends students the right message that if they want to excel in school, they must take the initiative to master the skills necessary for their courses. In college, no one will be there to hold student's hands and by giving students more out of school responsibility, students will be better prepared for college.

**By Summer Claveau**  
ETC Editor

If homework was an option but didn't count for a grade, I wouldn't do it. But then again, even now that homework is mandatory it doesn't always get done to the fullest extent. The easy "A" on a homework worksheet is sometimes the only thing that keeps some students' grades where they want them.

Abolishing homework from the classes is a terrible idea. Teachers, parents and students agree. If students have no will to study along with the homework assigned, how will anyone get any studying done without homework being required?

Even though people don't do their homework all the time, they do the homework they know grades depend on. For example test corrections, re-doing essays and study guides.

The whole "no homework" educational technique is just a new fad. Do we really want to jump on the bandwagon with elementary schools and middle schools?

It's always a good idea to re-evaluate how things are being done. Re-evaluating ways to teach the students is much appreciated by all of us. But before a proposal is made the student's point of view needs to be considered.

At first glance having no homework sounds like an awesome break and stress reliever. But in actuality all at homework wouldn't count for a grade. The long pack-

**The whole "no**

homework" educational technique is just a new fad. Do we really want to jump on the bandwagon with elementary and middle schools?

ets teachers assign for extra credit wouldn't count either.

Sure, piles and piles of homework for grammar school students is unbearable. I, for one, know how tough it is to deal with an irritable younger sibling trying to get math, reading, spelling and science homework done for tomorrow. If homework is going to be gotten rid of, it needs to be limited to elementary school.

Middle school and high school students need to continue with homework though. Grades can't only be based on tests, essays and the little bit of class work. In some subjects, such as math, there are no essays or writing, only solving equations.

Getting rid of homework is a mistake, and if you really have that big of a problem with your homework, learn to manage your time.

## Good job, tech crew!

*The hard work of the techies deserves some recognition*

**By Katie Kinzel**  
Forum Editor

For every auditorium performance, there is a task force in the background.

Behind the magic of every performance there is the tech crew. This group of students does the lighting, sound, set transitions and backdrops for all auditorium events.

After all they have done, I think the tech crew deserves more recognition. Their jobs are reflected through their work on the plays, musicals, assemblies, sports ceremonies and other events.

This group of students, led by Mary Jo Levesque, has won countless awards for their work in tech, setting a positive image for WS.

The techies spend almost everyday after school and take time from their classes to make sure all ceremonies, inductions, theatre productions and assemblies happen. After school they spend their time in the lighting booth or backstage preparing for the next event.

They go through all the rehearsals with the cast and make sure every queue is exactly right. For the plays and musicals they spend hours making sure the backdrops are designed and painted in great detail. They are the backbone of the theatre department.

**They are the glue that holds everything together during auditorium performances.**

Anyone who knows a techie knows they love their job and how much hard work it is.

Without them, we wouldn't get out of class for assemblies and there would be no musicals or plays. They are the glue that holds everything together during auditorium performances.

The tech crew's job is just as important as the lead role in the play or musical. If they make a mistake it can be as disastrous as an actor forgetting their line.

When they could be home doing their homework or going out with friends, they choose to be at the school fulfilling their role as a techie. Their commitment as techies shows through the amount of time they spend and the pride they take in their work.

So the next time you see someone walking down the hall with a black shirt and "TECH" printed on the back in white capital letters give them a pat on the back for all they have done.



**Tech crew student Levi BaracloUGH works to set up for a performance in the auditorium. Without the techies there would be no events in the auditorium.**

Ryan Miller

## Spring brings bad fashion

**By Bridget Crowley**  
Features Editor

Spring fashion is like one of those mystery bags you buy at the dollar store, but instead of being filled with disappointingly junky toys you find a vast array of similarly disappointing fashion faux pas.

For one thing, it is obvious that with the change of weather, clothing will get shorter and skimpier, sometimes in all the wrong places. Now, I don't see many guys wearing booty shorts or low-cut tops to try to show off their man-cleavage so this is more of a message to the ladies.

Yes, we all know it's getting warmer and shorts are the most feasible option, but please use common sense when choosing what to wear. There's such a thing as too short and I'm here to save you the embarrassment by giving you the reality check you need. There are more than 2500 students and teachers that you see every day and it's doubtful that any of them want to see your butt cheeks or muffin top so just make sure that if you choose to wear shorts you keep it tasteful and make sure they fit.

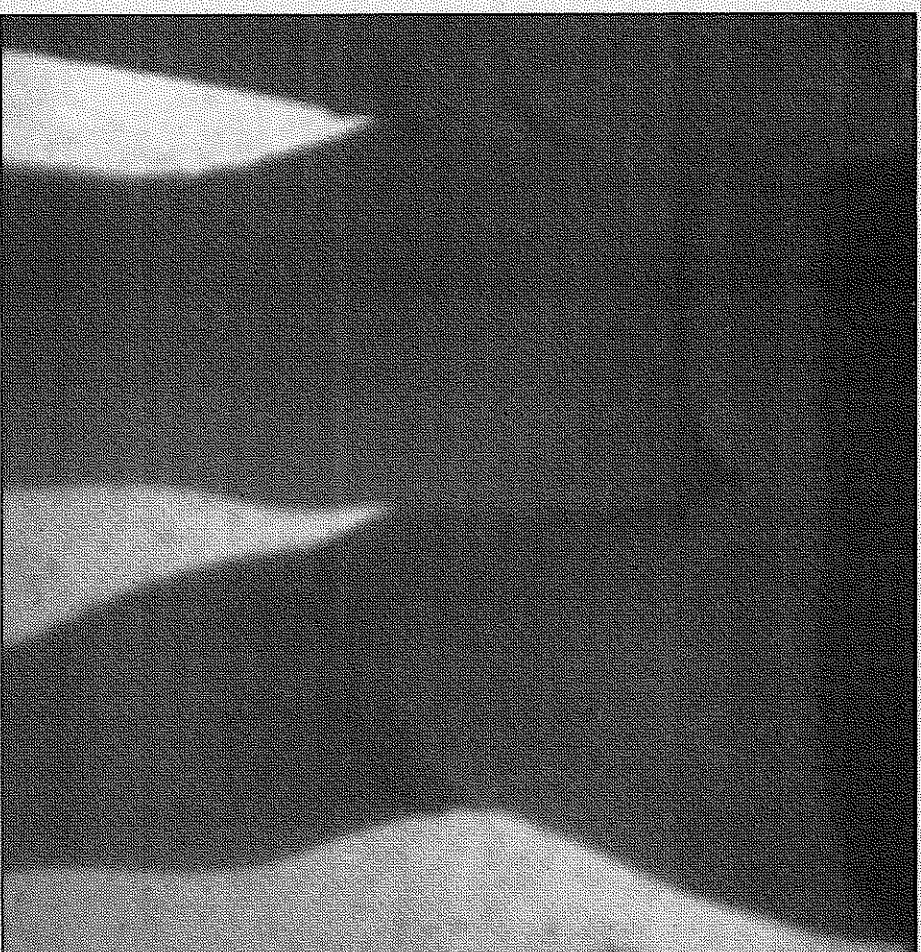
Another thing I've had the displeasure of noticing is that people are still wearing their UgG boots. I mean come on girls, really? They're lined with fur and it's about 90 de-

grees outside! Not only were Uggs ugly in the winter, but now that it's spring they're both out of style and out of season. So please, ditch the boots. I can't imagine how uncomfortable it must be to have winter boots on in this weather and you can't imagine how annoying it is to see you wearing them.

Now boys, don't think you've gotten off the hook so easily, although not as noticeable as the girls, your crimes are still pretty bothersome. For one thing, the baggy pants with the boxes showing are getting old and I'm saying this for your own good. Just a couple weeks ago I saw someone in my math class with particularly loose jeans who stood up to give in his test only to have them fall all the way down to his scrawny shins as he struggled to hold both his pants and his dignity as the whole class looked on. So to avoid embarrassing situations wear pants that fit or, at the very least, a belt.

This leads to my next no-no for the boys. I'll put it out there plain and simple: Please don't wear dress belts with your everyday outfits. Get a regular belt, not one of those shiny pleather things you wear with khakis and dress shirts because when you wear those with jeans, you look like a dweeb.

I'm only looking out for you so heed my warning and as you all shed your winter clothes and step out into spring.



Bridget Crowley

With the beginning of spring comes a large variety of disappointing fashion faux pas. Boys and girls alike are guilty of committing these crimes against fashion.

# Heintz and AP US History class bring home the victory

*Competition provides an effective method of exam review*

By Jennifer Nguyen  
Oracle Staff Writer

Every year three schools are prepared to duke it out in the annual AP US History Tri-Wizard History Cup.

Students from Oakton, West-

field and the defending champion WS participated in the competition which was originally planned as a fun review for the AP test. For the

second year in a row US History teacher Brian Heintz can happily gloat and show off the Tri-Wizard History Cup, which is really a playful Harry Potter cup with strikers of historical figures on it.

Heintz. “We invited more schools, but only three showed up.” For those who haven’t read the Harry Potter series and don’t understand the reference, there were three schools competing for the Tri-Wizard cup in the Goblet of Fire and the same coincidence took place during the school competition. The competition consisted of three obstacles.

Heintz. The objective of the game is to get your teammates to guess the word on your card without using certain words. WS annihilated the other schools in the first two challenges, but the third task caused a tiny blemish in their almost flawless record.

“I started off as a joke,” said Heintz. “We invited more schools, but only three showed up.” For those who haven’t read the Harry Potter series and don’t understand the reference, there were three schools competing for the Tri-Wizard cup in the Goblet of Fire and the same coincidence took place during the school competition. The competition consisted of three obstacles.

The first task was to take an AP test with 80 questions under thirty minutes a loud obnoxious song played in the background. “Violations of the 8<sup>th</sup> amendment.” The 8<sup>th</sup> amendment clearly states no usage of cruel and unusual punishment, but the competition ignores that. After all tests were graded, junior Justin Strickland earned the highest rank with an impressive score of 76 correct answers out of 80.

AP US History teacher Brian Heintz poses with his Tri-Wizard History Cup after winning the competition for the second year in a row.

each person is asked questions and if they get it wrong they sit down,” said junior Amanda Vercurysse.

“There is no actual dodge ball involved or else I would be hurt.”

WS scored first place in two competitions and second place in the last one, which averaged out their final ranking to first place. Winners of the championship are able to receive prizes from Heintz’s infamous history box. Inside the treasure chest prizes vary from collector items to yard sale material.

were t-shirts, foreign currency, video games, used ice scrapers and a box of tissues,” said Heintz.

Overall, students have found the Tri-Wizard tournament to be a rewarding experience that had further helped them to be prepared for the AP US History exam and a fun activity that brought out their competitive spirits.

“It was a really fun and good review,” said Vercurysse. “I took a practice exam the next day and I felt more confident about the test because of the review.”



Last year's AP US History champs take home the trophy and allowed history teacher Brian Heintz to boast about holding the history cup.

# Obsolete rule prevents cell phone use in schools

*The state lifted the ban on cell phones after 2001; some say FCPS should wake up and do the same*

By Danielle Mazzuchi  
Features Editor

Teachers do not take away students’ cell phones for their own amusement, but rather for the cleanliness of their criminal record.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, numerous states passed laws prohibiting the use of cell phones or electronic devices in schools by students. The constant noise of the devices going off presented a disruption in the learning process.

“Everything has a time and a place,” said chemistry teacher Sharon Phillips. “I find an issue with students having their cell phones in school.”

While the long, drawn-out days go by, students have to find some source of entertainment to keep them awake in classes.

“I get cell phones daily,” said Assistant principal Richard Griffin. “If a teacher or adult sees a cell phone, they have the right to revoke it from the student.”

FCPS School Board policy prohibits students from using electronic devices during the school day.

“Technology changes as laws are passed,”



Cell phone use was once easy to spot during school day, but as cell phone technology has progressed through the years, the laws that govern them have not kept pace.

said Assistant Principal Mike Mukai. “These Virginia state law states that beepers are prohibited. Beepers first started being used in 1974; the state law was extended to the use of cell phones in school.

# English Department says ‘goodbye’

*Retirement offers two colleagues well earned leisure time*

By Susan Nguyen  
Page One Editor

English teachers Mary Moriarty and Patricia McMillan have more in common than the subject that they teach. Both will be retiring next year, taking half of the AP Lang staff with them.

Moriarty and McMillan, who’ve collectively taught for more than 50 years, are leaving their professions behind for similar reasons. Both are leaving the classroom for something just as demanding: their first grandsons.

“I’m ready to do other stuff and not grade papers,” said Moriarty. “I want to sleep and not get up before the sun.”

Both teachers not only plan to

devote their newly gained freedom to taking care of the recent additions to their families, but to travel and taking time for themselves as well.

Moriarty plans on taking a two-week trip to Alaska, while McMillan is taking a cruise through the Mediterranean to celebrate both her retirement and her 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

“I want to have freedom without the restricted schedule,” said McMillan. “I’m going to miss the classroom experience. When I think about retiring, the tears come.”

Moriarty, who is also the English Department Chair, expects this year’s AP Lang teachers Deena Johnson and Marilyn Harriman to

be joined next year by newcomer Jamie O’Neill and veteran Brooke Nelson. Nelson, the current Journalism teacher, was the school’s first AP Lang teacher and originated the AP Lang curriculum in 1995.

“I don’t feel guilty about leaving, but I am going to miss it,” said McMillan. “We leave [the] department in good hands.”

Although Moriarty and McMillan are looking forward to the lack of restrictions that their departure from teaching will garner them, both will sorely miss the interaction that goes on in the classroom.

“Talking about literature, going to that deeper level of analysis, and teaching kids to question what they read...I have loved almost every

“If you were to walk around with a beeper, never mind you getting in trouble, your friends would make fun of you forever,” said Mukai.

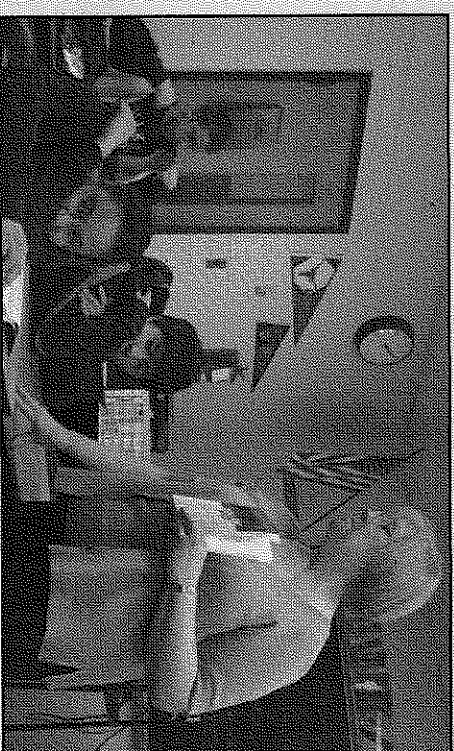
Since September 11, 2001, however, many questioned the validity of banning cell phones in the classroom. The state of Virginia lifted the ban. FCPS has been slow to follow suit, claiming illegal activity could be encouraged.

“Cell phones in school provide an opportunity for the increase in criminal activity,” said School Resource Officer Joseph Plazio. “It also leads to theft,” because students are then tempted to steal their friends’ cellies.

During police academy training, Plazio learned current laws that are still in effect today. “There are laws in existence concerning [the use of] cell phones” in school, he said. “There are no laws prohibiting the possession of cell phones.”

Granted, portable devices cause a disruption in the learning process, but they have the same features as a modern day computer.

“Essentially, based on the size of the object, you can get in trouble,” said Mukai. “The lines are drawn but are not well defined.”



AP Lang teacher Patricia McMillan plans on retiring next year, along with fellow colleague Mary Moriarty, both having served more than 50 years.

minute of teaching,” said Moriarty. “I will always be teaching in some capacity,” said McMillan. “To see the smile on their face when they see success... that to me is stimulating, rewarding and addictive.”

## Lacrosse players disciplined

**"Girls Lacrosse" from Page 1.**  
conducted themselves in that matter," said Brandt. "The second concern was whether it was hazing or initiation. Nothing we had confirmed that. This was teenagers making bad decisions and not a team culture."

write and sign a statement about their involvement or non-involvement in shoplifting during the Spring Break trip.  
"They basically interrogated us," said one player. "They basically put us against each other and tried to get us to name each other out."

Several graduates who played Varsity lacrosse also reiterated that shoplifting has never been an initiation rite for the team nor did it occur when they went on team trips to Florida in the past.

From statements compiled in these interviews, administrators determined that two additional team members had shoplifted while at Disney World, and although there was suspicion that other players may have also stolen items from the park, there was nothing that could be proven. The two girls were given 15-day activities suspensions beginning on the day that their involvement was discovered.

*The Washington Post* called several players to question them about the incident. In an attempt to prevent *The Post* from publishing a story, the team roster was removed from Spartan Sports and the team stopped distributing rosters to spectators before games.

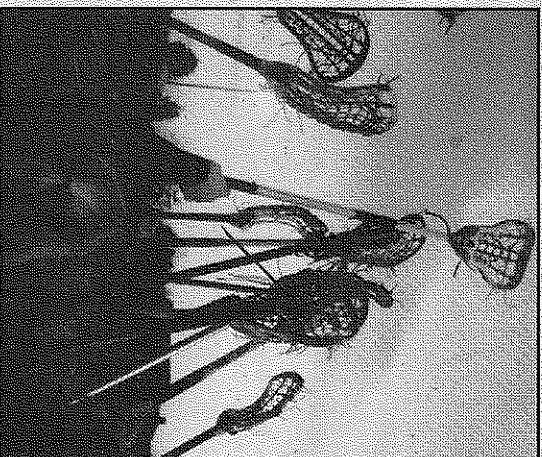
Overall, in addition to their activities suspensions, all nine girls who confessed to shoplifting either at Ron Jon or at Disney received 7.5 hours of community service, a day of Saturday School and were assigned to write an essay about the statistics of shoplifting and how their actions affected the team.

The six players who confessed after the incident were given 15-day suspensions from participating in VHSL activities. The sole team member who was apprehended at the Ron Jon store was given a 30-day activities suspension, with all suspensions beginning during the team's time in Florida. The rest of the team played through their tournament with only two substitute players in 90-degree heat, while the implicated players sat on the bench.

"They were disciplined in regards to the participation pledge and they were also disciplined for breaking the SR&R," Muir said, referring to the Student Rights & Responsibilities handbook that outlines expectations for student conduct and possible punishments.

"Since we were going to Florida [the trip] could have been great," said one player, who was not involved in the shoplifting incident. She said, however, that the tournament was "miserable" and the trip uncomfortable.

Both Muir and Brandt said the administration looked to follow a "stealing is stealing no matter what you stole" policy in dealing with each team member. This led to some dissent, as the two girls who stole a cookie and a candy bar at Disney received the same punishment as people who stole clothing, while the one girl who was arrested received a 30-day activities suspension instead of the 15 days that the other players received. One player also expressed unhappiness that the two girls who were caught after the team returned to Virginia were still given the same punishment as the girls who came forward and admitted they had shoplifted in Florida, even though these two had pretended to be



LifeTouch  
Members of the girls lacrosse team have moved on after disciplinary actions in April.

**"When we heard about it, it was a sad thing to think that we had so many...that conducted themselves in that manner."**

**Becky Brandt,  
Senior Class Administrator**

innocent and continued playing in the tournament.

"I think they should've gotten a harsher punishment," said another team member, referring to the girls who confessed after the team meeting in Florida. This player also said that she didn't think the girls who stole at Disney had behaved as poorly as the others.

Since the incident occurred in early April, the team has moved on. All of the players who were suspended from their activities have since been reinstated. One team member, however, said a lingering sense of doubt remains about the administrator's reaction.

"They said that [stealing] was worse than anything you could possibly do," she said. "I think stealing's bad but there's stuff that's worse."

**Seniors get to learn sex-ed—in Government class this time**

**"Sex-Ed" from Page 1.**  
of education on this topic during junior year, however, it had seemed that FLB had ended.

"We've had it [from when] we were 11 until [we were] 16," said senior Melanie Fish. "I think we get it." Although the course does seem to be repetitive, the focus on one autoimmune disease is different from other years.

Even though the course will only be about AIDS education some students are getting ready for a more exciting experience.

"I think it would be great to learn about sex in the government," said senior Bob Martin.

Sorry Bob, learning about "sex in the government" is not the main focus of this last section of senior year.

Based in a class that all seniors are required to take the course will focus on statistics of the groups that are most susceptible to the disease as well as some public policy related to it.

From the separated classrooms in elementary school with gender appropriate teachers, seniors have progressed to staying in a single room to learn the FLB necessities. This, however, in no way means the seniors will act maturely.

"I don't think people are going to resist poking fun at the teacher," said Fish.

Seniors, make all the jokes now because once the lessons begin many may be disappointed.

"A lot of seniors think it's going to be fun," said department chair Maggie Tran. "It's not."

CONGRATULATIONS  
NEW SCHOLARS!

"Learn, lead and  
change the world."

The  
National Society  
High School  
Scholars

www.nshss.org

**BURKE  
SPORTING  
GOODS**

Your Neighborhood Sports Store

**703-239-9000**

Burkesports@verizon.net

www.burkesports.com

5765E Burke Centre Pkwy

Burke, VA 22015

- Spiritwear
- Screenprinting
- Team Warm-ups
- Varsity Letter  
Jackets
- Embroidery

Monday - Friday: 10 - 7 Saturdays: 10 - 3 Sundays: CLOSED

**GO SPARTANS !!!**

# Couldn't think of a headline, FML

By Rebecca Naramore  
Oracle Editor

Three little letters have been reverberated through the halls; FML.

The popular new site, fmylife.com has become a network staple for high school students.

"My friend Caitlin told me about it," said senior Kayla Husson. Teachers and students alike know how quickly information moves through word of mouth. The news about fmylife.com is no exception.

The site offers short story posts by people who have managed to entangle themselves in some extremely unfortunate and embarrassing situations. All of the stories of course end with "FML."

"If I'm in a rut I can read it and feel better about myself," said senior Chelsea Blahut.

The appeal of reading experiences clearly worse than any a normal person could encounter gives more than just laughs.

There is also that feeling of reassurance, knowing someone else can have even bigger accidents and lapses in judgment. The site, however, has only offered the same type of embarrassing moments for students to read over and over. This in itself has become tiring for even the biggest fans.

"It was funny when it was in the beginning," said junior Jun Kim. "It's gotten much more repetitive."

Kim, who has been known as someone who enjoys reading the posts out loud to class members has now grown bored with going over the same type of embarrassing mishaps that appear on the site.

Regardless of the repetition, the majority of students still find reading the posts a hilarious and rewarding experience.

"We used to read it during Spartan Time until it was

"If I'm in a rut I can read it and feel better about myself,"

—Chelsea Blahut,  
Senior

blocked," said Blahut.

She, like many of her peers must now resort to reading fmylife.com at home as a result of the site being blocked. It was restricted from schools for containing some material that may be found to be inappropriate.

All in all FML has become a new sensation among bored teens everywhere.

"It's just funny," said Husson. "It makes me giggle."

## Students praise, trash teachers online

By Lisa Williams  
Viewpoint Editor

Teachers' reputations never leave them.

They are dubbed easy, hard, carefree, strict, oblivious, insane or cool from day one of their teaching careers.

Their students proceed to pass on that "knowledge" about their teachers' personalities to the next year's students, perpetuating a reputation for them throughout their years of teaching at a school.

Ratemyteachers.com gives students easy access to this information. The site offers student opinions about teachers from around the country even W.S.

"You can learn what you can and can't get away with," said junior John Locke. "It's a good way to find out about teachers and how

to deal with them."

Former students put in their two cents about their teachers in an online forum setup.

Often the comments are words of criticism but sometimes also of praise.

"A cardboard box could have better prepared [students] for the exam," wrote one dissatisfied student about a Spartan teacher. "Disastrously disorganized, and has never followed a lesson plan once"

And although Mrs. "Cardboard Box" might take offense at this remark, she should remember that the comment could have come from a student who was **more upset with a low grade than anything else.**

"The reviews are based mostly on people's opinions, so not everybody would feel the same way about the given teacher," said junior Hannah Gumpf.

Gumpf's analysis proves true, because a review of RMT.com showed that even Mrs. "Cardboard Box" received a couple of nice reviews.

"She's pretty cool, and she's enthusiastic," said a more positive student.

Sometimes, though the reviews prove to be a paradox.

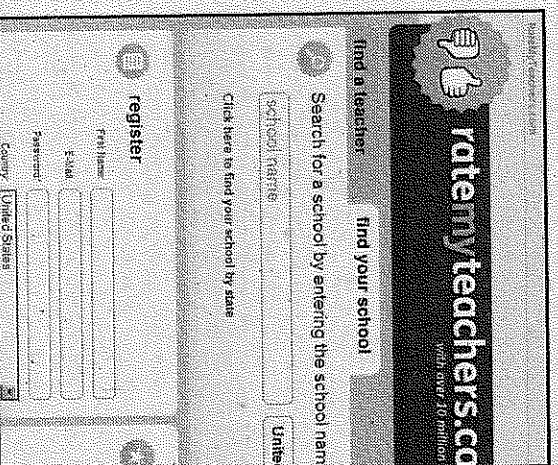
A teacher labeled "Mr. Strick" was rewarded for being a good teacher, even though he might not always be the students' best friend.

"He's nice as long as you pay attention in class, participate, and do your homework," said one of this teacher's former students.

So, when students receive their schedules for next year, Ratemyteachers.com might be used to prepare for the new grounds ahead.

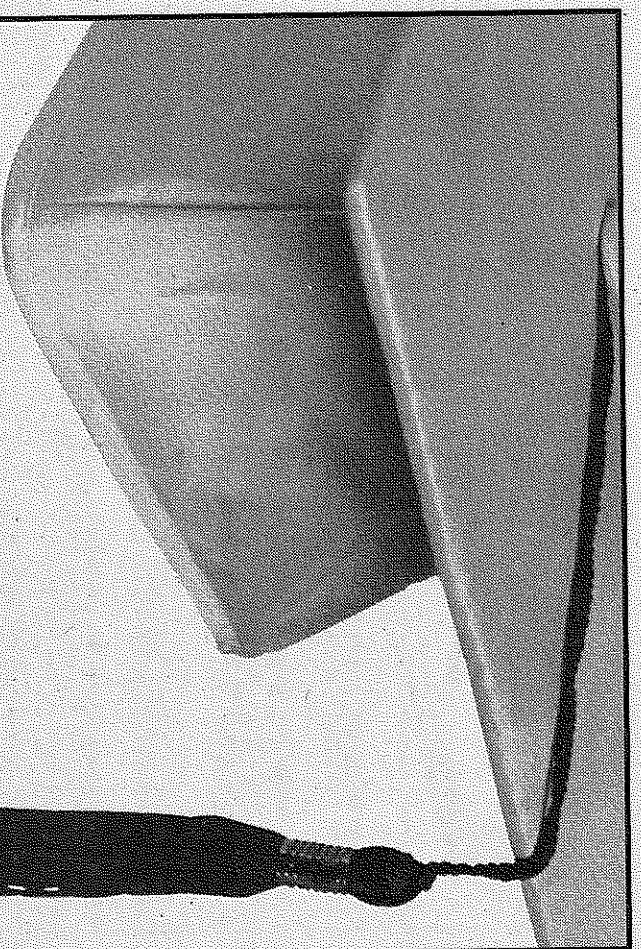
"It tells the truth in a nice way, for the most part," said sophomore Jessica Friedel. Whether or not the comments actually prove helpful in the long run, they can usually provide entertaining for the reader, or at least cure the some boredom.

"I feel like it's an outlet for angry kids," said senior Taylor Silver. "Or kids who have nothing else to do at the moment."



Rate my teachers

Ratemyteachers.com has "reviews" of teachers across the country and right here, too.



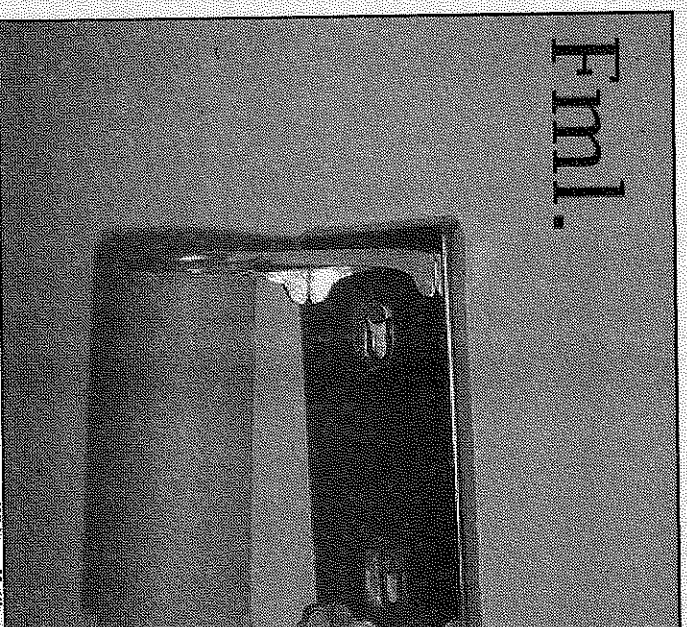
Getting into college  
is 20% harder than  
it was ten years ago.  
be smarter,  
education  
the smarter.

K-12 Tutoring • SAT Prep • Study Skills

9556 Old Keene Mill Rd. Burke, VA 22015

1-800-777-7000 • www.C2educate.com

Fml.



Whitney Matthews

Imagine walking into the bathroom and finishing up your business only to realize there is no toilet paper left on the roll. This would be considered a classic 'FML' moment: one of many unfortunate anecdotes included on the site.

icing on the cake  
Custom Bakery

Nicole Brigham

(703) 912-1323

Hair Styling for the Whole Family

Hair One

M - F 9 am - 7 pm  
Sat 8 am - 5 pm  
CLOSED SUNDAY

(703) 913-0627  
6345 Rolling Rd  
Springfield, VA 22152

WILLIAMSON HOME REPAIRS, INC.

PAINTING - EXTERIOR/INTERIOR  
CARPENTRY - DRYWALLING  
PRESSURE WASH - SIDING/DECKS  
WINDOWS - HANDYMAN

JOHN WILLIAMSON 7815 ROUNDABOUT WAY  
FREE ESTIMATES 703-455-2686 SPRINGFIELD, VA 22153

# Seniors to be, step up in fees for the upcoming school year

*Juniors enroll in a raffle to compete for open parking spots in the school yard. First come, first served, and they will have their spots reserved*

**By Mia Desantis**  
*Senior Staff Writer*

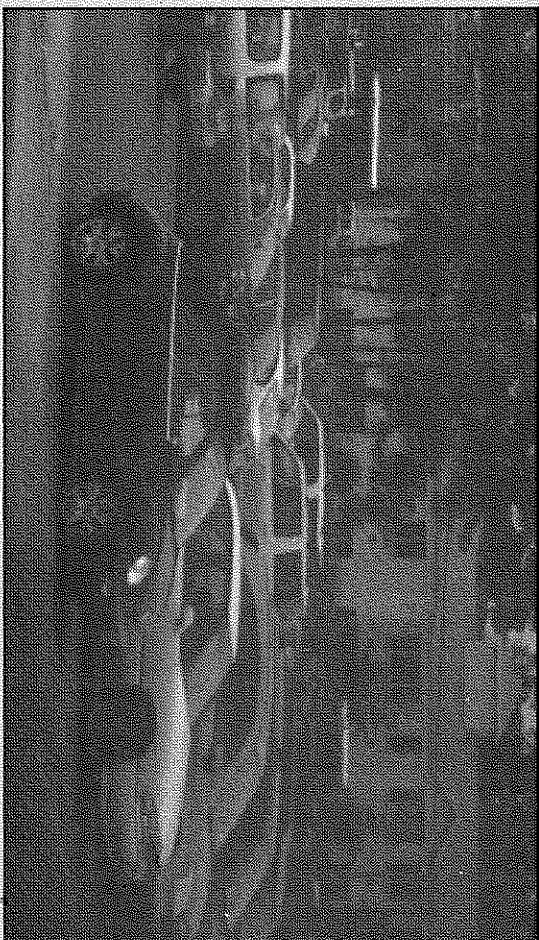
Seventeen days and counting is the amount of days left of school for the class of 2009.

Sooner than later the senior parking will be clearing out, minus the faculty vehicles; which means juniors are welcome. But for a few juniors their opportunity came quicker than others.

"I doesn't bother me that much that I didn't get a spot this year because I'm going to get one next year, and don't have to pay extra money this year," said junior Nathan Gardner.

Numerous times throughout the school year tickets have been sold to remaining seniors who still wish to claim their spot, but about a month ago the raffle was open to juniors. Of the ten to twelve open spots by the baseball field nine went to juniors.

"I found out about it from my friend who talked to Mr. Ukele a few weeks ago," said junior Rose Seidmen.



Rebecca Naramore

**Rising seniors will have to anticipate higher fees to be able to park in senior lot.**  
Safety & Security Specialist Mike Ukele is in charge of the senior parking lot and distributing passes to those who are selected.

Most seniors purchase their spots over the summer and are already set for the upcoming school year, but some have to wait a little

longer due to different circumstances.

"We advertise them throughout the whole year to seniors, and then open up the spots against the fence by the baseball field after it has snowed because of the plows," said Ukele.

During the winter months it can be hazardous to park along the fence of the baseball field because that is where the plows pile up the excess snow in the parking lot.

"I like parking there because I know if I have to leave school early or come late that my spot will still be there unlike parking on rolling," said junior Caroline Foster.

Now because certain juniors have a senior spot this year doesn't mean they don't have to pay next year. That is not the case at all. Each and every senior next year who would like a spot has to purchase one and enter their name into the raffle.

"The money goes into the General Fairfax County Fund; we get 15% of it back, and use that money to fix up the parking lot and other school necessities," said Ukele.

# We appreciate you, Mr. Ma!

*After years of service a thanks goes out to an integral part of WS*

**By Ally Mackin**  
*Senior Staff Writer*

When garbage is spread after the lunch before "Who Ya Guna' Call?" KEVIN MA.

He is one of the oldest members of the school's custodial staff. And while he was too shy to say much during an interview for this story, Ma has made a strong contribution to our school's cleanliness for 18 years.

If there is a toilet flooding in the math hallway, Ma is there to mop up the mess before the screaming girls start their complaining.

When a stubborn locker finally decides to keep the owner out, Ma is there to get the locker open and get the owner to class on time. When a light bulb busts, leaving glass particles ready to cause injuries, Ma is there sweeping up the potential crime scene.

"Mr. Ma works really hard on keeping our cafeteria clean," said junior Scott Lopez. "I think his hard work is often underappreciated."

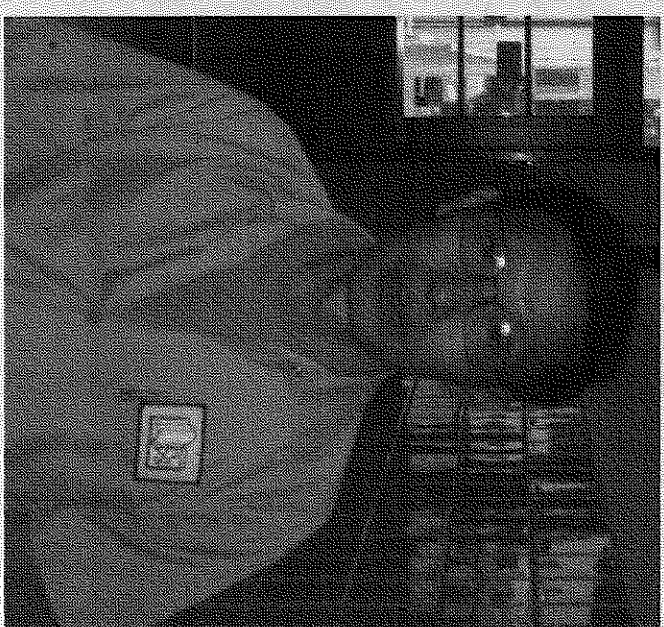
Not only does Ma work hard to keep the safety and health of the students under control, he is also a good friend to many at WS. He works with a positive attitude and rarely shows a negative mind-set.

"I clean up the cafeterias because I like to help keep it safe from germs for the kids," said Ma. "When they finish eating I collect their trash."

Without being asked twice, Ma sets up tables and chairs with the help of other Custodians for certain events and meetings. He can always be counted on to maintain the hallways. Ma is usually found behind the scenes tidying up WS's dirty work.

He works hard throughout the week, on student holidays and long breaks. Ma is appreciated for everything that he has done for this school.

"Mr. Ma is so reliable, so accepting to help anyone at any given time," said Senior Administrator Becky Brandt, who supervises the custodial staff. Thank you, Mr. Ma!



Rebecca Naramore

**A key member of WS's staff for 18 years, Kevin Ma can be found cleaning up between lunches.**

# Just another day?

*Some celebrate Earth Day by following their normal, 'green' daily routines*

**By Tiffany Clark**  
*Weekend Editor*

Twenty million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums with a common goal: to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment.

There were coast-to-coast rallies, protesting against the deterioration of the Earth. This occurred on America's very first Earth Day, April 22, 1970.

Earth Day was created by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, who later received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for founding Earth Day.

It's hard to believe that so many people once took such a big part in this annual event given that modernly, it's pushed aside and forgotten.

For the most part, Spartans celebrated Earth Day as part of their daily routine.

"I actually feel like we do a fair amount of recycling. I think we should stop throwing our trash all over the halls and stop sticking our gum everywhere," said sophomore Kath-

erine Howard. "I think we just need to clean up more."

And while recycling helps, some believe we could do a better job.

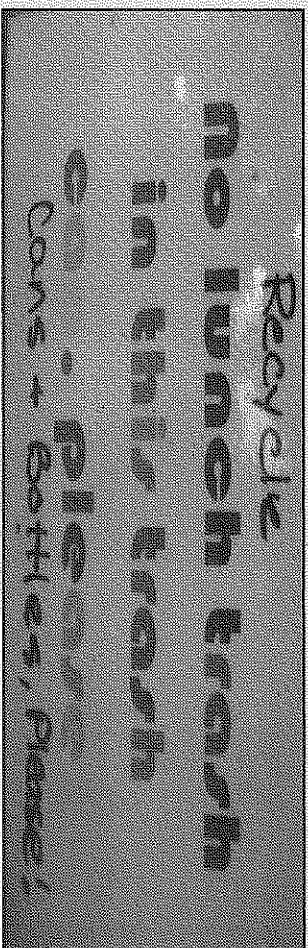
"I feel like the school just tries to pretend that they're environmentally friendly," sophomore Haley Cook said, after she learned that some of the recycling gets mixed up with the regular trash.

While it is an important part in saving the Earth, recycling isn't the only way students can help.

"Most seniors and juniors drive to school," said junior Taylor Gibson. "My car only gets 17 miles per gallon, so riding the bus would save a lot of gas, but it's not that important to most students."

And because students have other things on their minds, they don't always realize that the smallest things they do could make a huge difference.

"I think the school should stop pretending to be environmentally friendly," said Cook, "and start actually being environmentally friendly."



Some students say we can do more to celebrate Earth Day than just recycling.

Danielle Mazzuchi



Rebecca Naramore

**1 out of 4 sexually active teens has an STD. Are you at risk?**

## Lifecoices Resource center

**FREE & CONFIDENTIAL HELP:**

- STD information and testing referrals
- Pregnancy testing
- A safe place to talk

\*Source: "Epidemic" by Meg Meeker, MD  
STD - sexually transmitted disease

**703-323-8060**  
**www.lifecoicesrc.org**

10521-D Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

**AZ DRIVING SCHOOL**  
**703 440 0020**  
Behind the Wheel, Classroom instruction  
Defensive Driving Clinic (5 good point)  
**www.azdriving.com**

**ROBERT DINO**

**Pentagon Hair Care Center**

(703) 521-0271  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
7 AM - 4 PM

CALL FOR YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT WITH SAM



# Toys

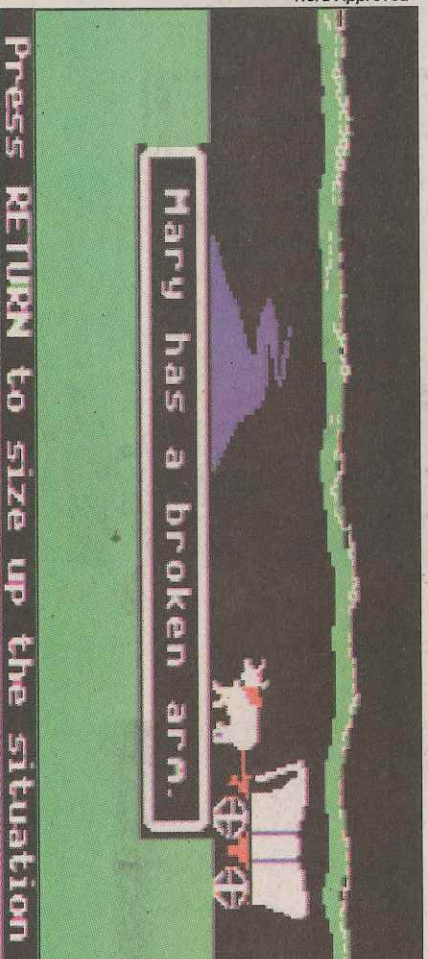
Tiger Electronics



# I ♥ the

- VH1 loves the '90s and so do we
- '90s were our playground. Disney on everything from music to movie classic days of "Zoog Disney?" Even a Tamogotchi, or five. Furbies, Bop-It. We all sang along to Backstreet Boys. Britney Spears. Of course the infamous Britney Spears. Christina won in the long run. Notorious B.I.G. and rocked those beats. "The Rachel" and rocked those beats. Notorious B.I.G met their maker. We were the days of Nintendo 64. The best movie of all time: "Wayne's World." So look back. pretty soon we'll be looking back.

*"You have died of dysentary."*



Nerd Approved

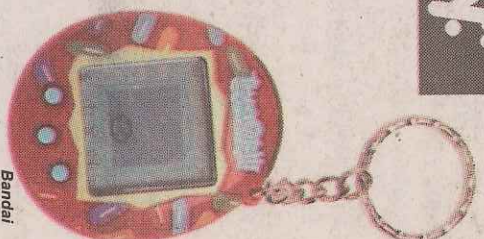
Press RETURN to size up the situation

Date: May 5, 1848  
 Heather: hot  
 Health: good  
 Food: 1440 pounds  
 Next Landmark: 22 miles  
 Miles traveled: 80 miles

# Movies

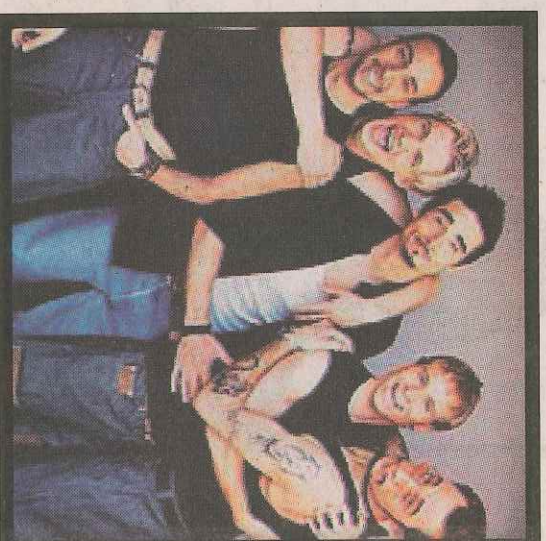


Hasbro

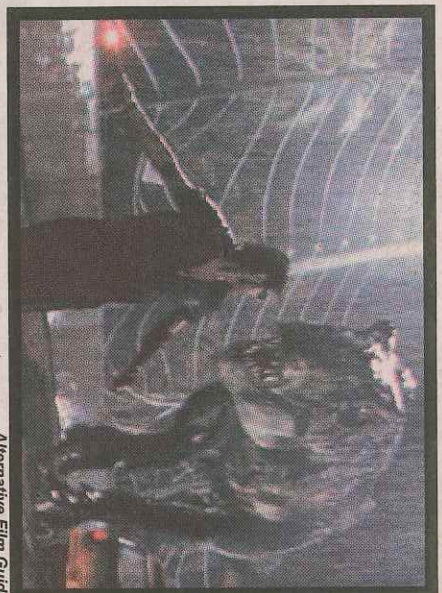


Bandai

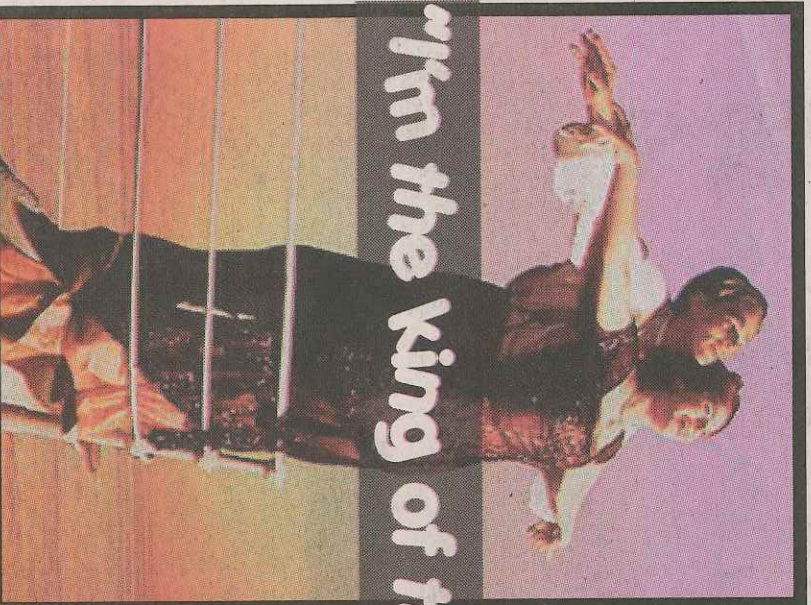
# Music



AOL

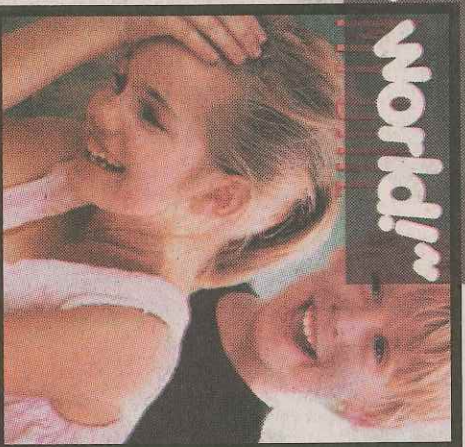


Alternative Film Guide



*"I'm the king of the world!"*

New York Post



CBS

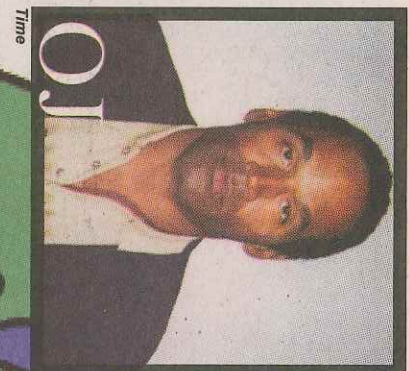


AOL

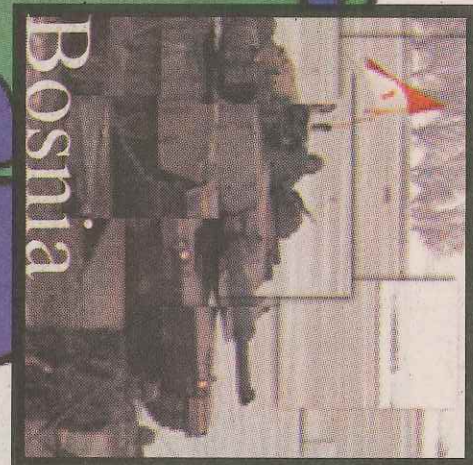


# a '90s

- For juniors and seniors the
- zy was king; it had its hands
- wives and who can forget the
- everybody who was anybody had
- Hot Wheels and the infamous
- street Boys and \*NSYNC. And
- vs. Christina-battle; pretty
- un. "Titanic" mania shook the
- murder trial. All the girls had
- bubble shirts. Kurt Cobain and
- s (Tupac is NOT dead). These
- and Pokémon. And of course
- ayne's World." The '90s were
- around and soak up the '90s,
- k on the 00's. Time flies by.



Time



Bosnia

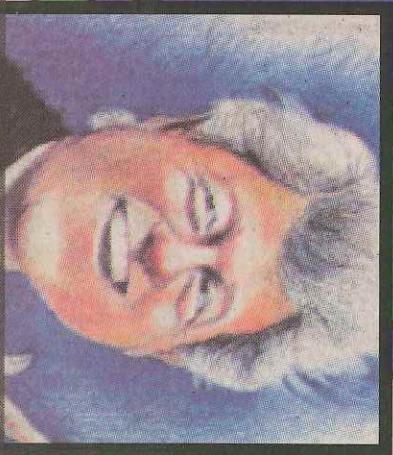
Associated Press

## In the News



ISS

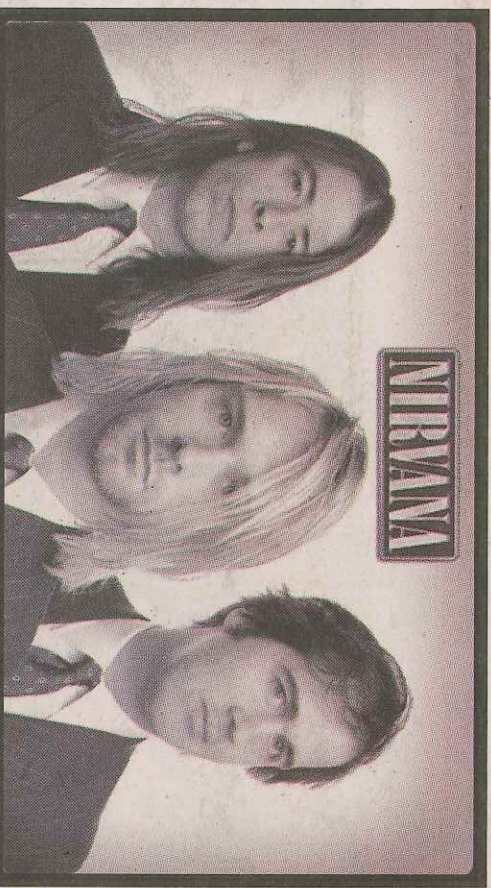
NASA



Clinton

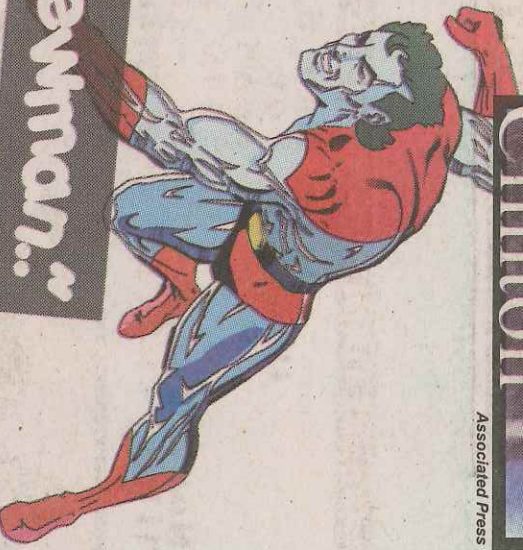
Associated Press

"I'm absolutely, 100 percent, not guilty!"



NIRVANA

BBC

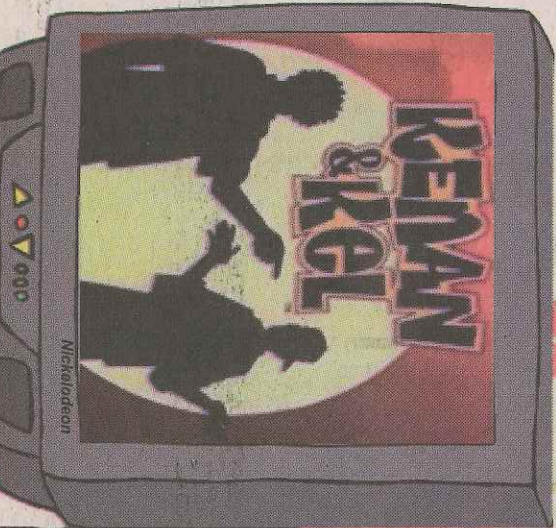


"Hello, Newman.."

Cartoon Network



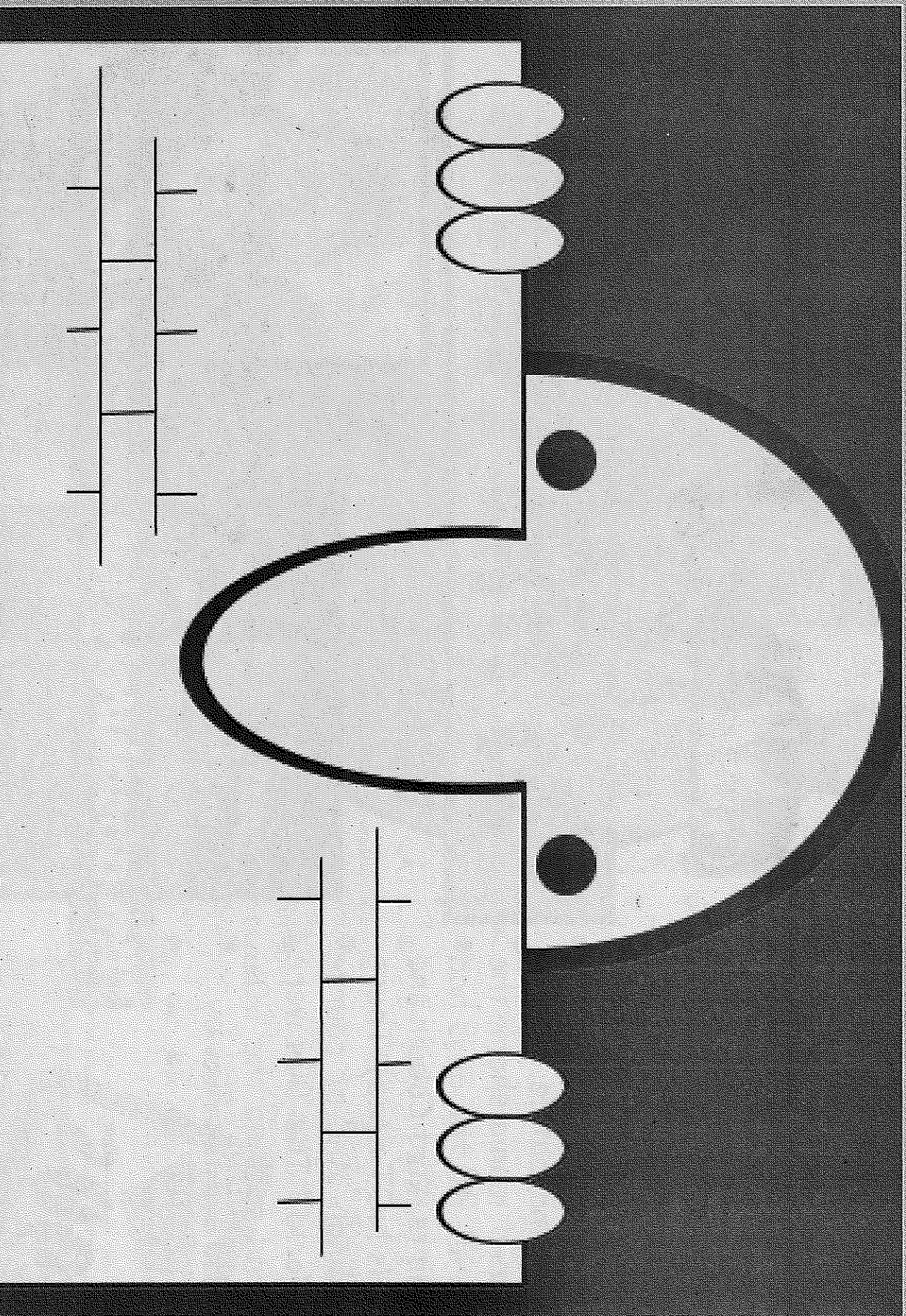
Web Design



Nickelodeon



Fox



**Don't be the one  
outside, looking in!**

**Order your 2009 Yearbook  
after school  
in Room 215.**

**Bring a check for \$70, so you  
won't be left out!**

# Fans died over 'Annie Get Your Gun'

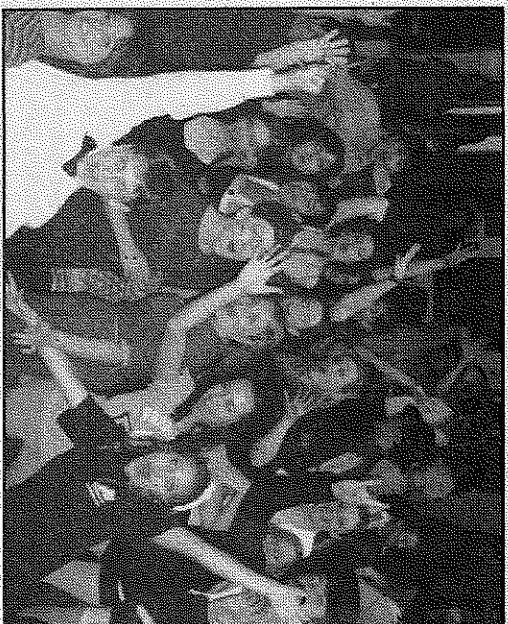
By Stephanie Maxwell  
Managing Editor

The lights were down, the music was rolling and I was mentally preparing myself for yet another school play. This one, however, turned out to be a great surprise.

I had heard that opening night of "Annie Get Your Gun" had not run as smoothly as many had hoped, but by time I saw the last performance, you never would have known there were any issues just a week before.

Junior Erin Cafferky played the lead role of Annie flawlessly. She was able to capture both the innocent cowgirl attitude of the first act and the successful performer state of mind of the second. But her acting hardly compared to her voice. With every note Cafferky captured and recaptured the audience's applause.

Cafferky was not alone in her success; junior John Novalis played the male lead opposite Annie, Frank Butler, and he too proved himself worthy of a lead. Their individually strong



Bri Rinaldo  
The cast of "Annie Get Your Gun" celebrates a successful performance by having a dance party and letting loose.

voices complemented one another making them that much more melodious.

In order to keep this review on a single page, I will not be able to complement all of actors and actresses that made "Annie Get Your Gun" enjoyable. There were just too many characters that added to the show and made me laugh, such as Chief Stinging Bull played by junior Austin Barbara or Annie's sister Nellie played by sophomore Beth Clapsaddle, to mention a few of them by name.

"Annie Get Your Gun," however, was a little different than musicals in years past in that the big group dances that normally plague the scenes were simply not prevalent.

There were certainly a few great large group dances, choreographed by junior Briana Rinaldo, seniors Hillary Jet and Kara Crompton to show the vast amount of talent and to also keep the audience enthralled by more than just the eight or so main characters. They certainly seemed few and far between, however.

Despite this, the play was overall enjoyable. Way to go, Drama!

## Quadfest is the best

By Chelsea Schuster  
Entertainment Editor

Walking through the streets all you hear is "Quadfest '09" being screamed at the top of people's lungs.

At Radford, Quadfest is the biggest event all year and their prime fundraiser. Students from all over go to have a good time. Some houses had live bands and DJs but most of them were too loud to even hear yourself think.

Not only do students attend, alumni and minor celebrities go too. Raab Himself from "Viva La Bam" was there along with a few other D-list celebrities.

Going to the local deli, it took about two hours just to get a bottle of water. The campus was overflowing with people. Although attending students have fun at Quadfest, they are happy when it is over so that everything can get back to normal for them.

The streets were covered with cops controlling the overcrowded campus. Walking just a few blocks you would see at least five police cars driving around and patrolling the crowds.

With packed houses and hot weather, students were taking many precautions to stay cool. Everyone was drinking water to stay

If you were arrested you probably had just as much fun, though; from what I

heard it was like a party in the police station due to how many people were there.

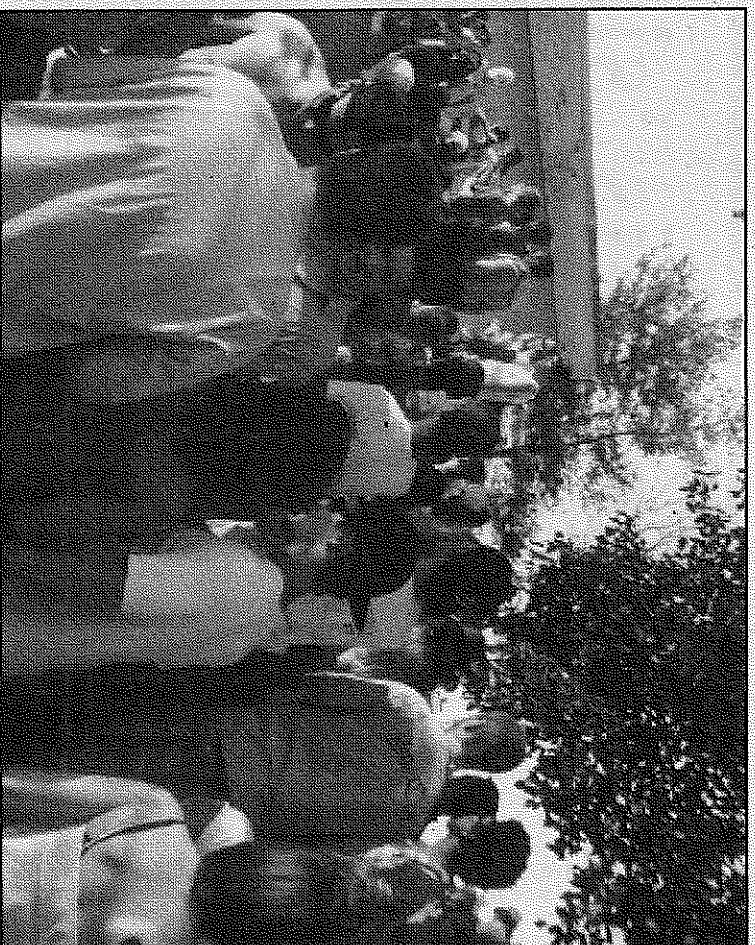
hydrated and one student even had a hose running out of the top balcony of his apartment into the bed of a truck to create a swimming pool.

While some hydrated or put out sprinkles to run through to keep cool, one girl took the precaution to an extreme and decided to wear a shirt as a dress (not okay).

Radford is a crazy place. I would not walk down the streets at night by myself, will people are on the loose.

Over the weekend, there were so many people arrested that the cops took all the jail-bait in a bus and dropped them off at campus to unload the drunk tank the next morning instead of waiting for their friends to come pick them up.

If you were arrested you probably had just as much fun, though; from what I heard it



Chelsea Schuster  
Students gathered to watch a popular house-band perform on their back porch. Radford University is famous for Quadfest and students come to partake in the festivities.

was like a party in the police station because of how many people were there.

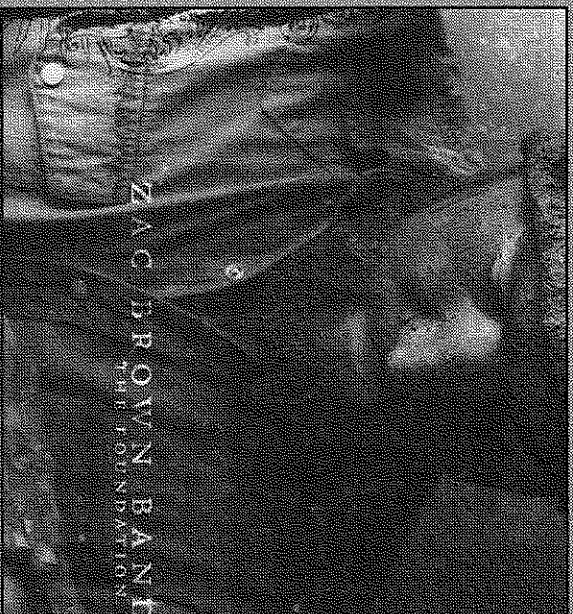
I had a great time and saw so many of my friends that I hadn't seen in a while. It was quite the reunion. I was at a friend's house

when a girl who attends Radford stated that she didn't know half the people there. I responded, "That's crazy I know just about everyone in the house right now." If you have a chance to go next year don't think twice.

### Apples to Apples

You may want to laugh when I tell you that it's not a rare occasion for me and my friends to stay in at night to play games, but before you scoff I recommend you try playing "Apples to Apples". Apples to Apples is a card game with a simple concept: match nouns to adjectives. Each round, one person is judge and picks a "green apple" card with an adjective on it. The other players choose and anonymously submit from their hand of "red apple" cards with general nouns or specific people, places or events that they think best match the "green apple" adjective. The judge picks the match he or she thinks is best. The game doesn't get boring, especially with matches like "touchy-feely" and "Helen Keller".

## Oracle Picks



Today's Country Mag

### Zac Brown Band — 'The Foundation'

Zac Brown is a singer/song writer who flew solo for a few years before joining with John Hopkins (bass), Jimmy De Martini (fiddle), Coy Bowles (guitar, organ) and Chris Fryar (drums). Together, the Zac Brown Band released "Home-grown" in 2005 followed by "Live from the Rock Bus Tour" in 2007. Their most recent, however, has taken their music to the next level producing several hits. "The Foundation" was released in November 2008 and by mid-December it had reached its peak at 17 on the billboard charts. "Whatever It Is" and "Chicken Fried" have a traditional country sound and have become hits on country radio stations, but the rest of their CD combines country, reggae and bluegrass to make a memorable unique sound.

—Compiled by Emmie Cleveland

### 'Slumdog Millionaire'

This independent film from India won eight Academy Awards in 2009, including Best Picture. The movie tells the story of Jamal Malik, an Indian child who grew up in the slums, playing and winning on India's version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire". Seemingly impossible that he knows every answer, Jamal explains his knowledge through flashbacks. His memories are realistic and keep viewers locked in throughout the movie with both comedy and tear-jerking tragedy. In the end, love prevails as Jamal risks losing all his money for his love. The horrific stories from the slums make it emotionally exhilarating. "Slumdog Millionaire" takes the cliché rags to riches story to the next level.



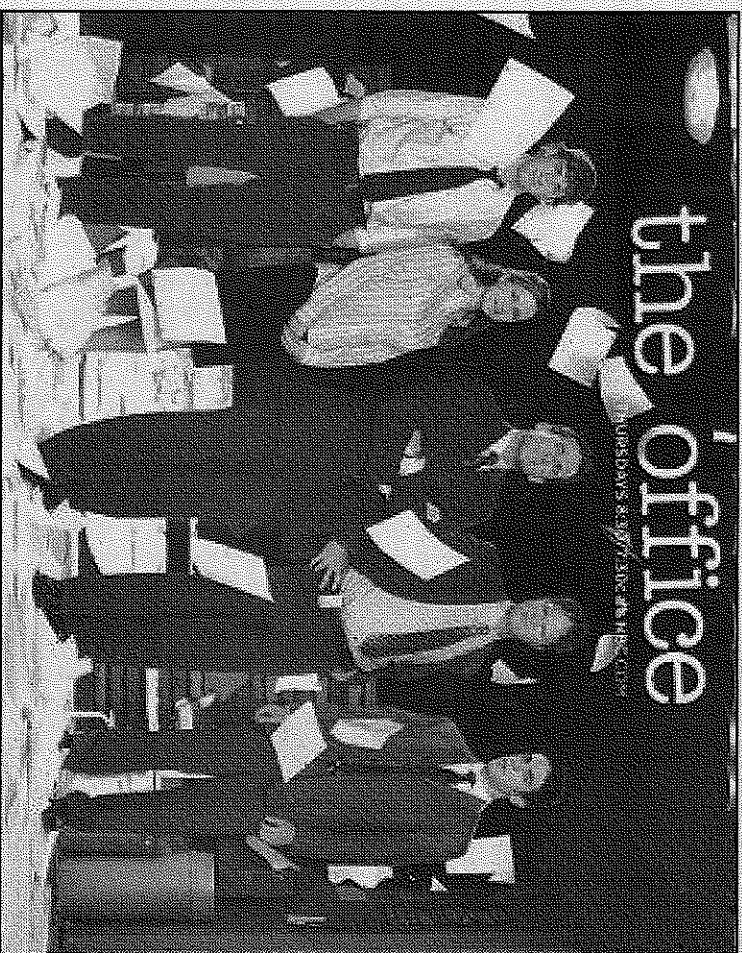
Biggsport

OVER ONE MILLION COPIES SOLD  
PARTY BOY

# APPLES to APPLES

The Game of Hilarious Comparisons!

Sunday Blitz



TV Blunder: The Office' draws viewers from all different ages. People fall in love with the characters and follow the show religiously. Some people even plan their schedules around the show, haven't they heard of TVo?

## 'The Office' is boss

By Luis Lester  
Business/Systems Assistant

It's become a daily reoccurrence that a reference to the hit TV show "The Office" is brought up in conversation.

"The Office" which airs Thursday's on NBC is now in its fifth season.

"I try to work my schedule around the show, so I don't miss it," said sophomore David Pyon.

The show is a mock documentary style that tries to demonstrate what working in a regular office job is like.

The show takes place in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and is based on the paper company, Dunder Mifflin.

Steve Carell, who also writes the show, plays Michael Scott, boss of the company and portrays himself as a clever funnyman who thinks he always knows what's best. Dwight Shrute, (Raman Wilson) is a salesman for Dunder Mifflin, and is Michael's right hand man.

Always trying to impress Michael, Dwight

comes up with obscure ideas and has a personality that will make you fall out of your seat laughing.

"I love the whole show, but Dwight is by far the best part. I don't think there's ever been a show where Dwight hasn't made me laugh," said senior Lindsey Sawyer. "He's like the core of the show. Without him it just wouldn't be the same."

One of the main themes of the show occurs inside the walls of Dunder Mifflin, is the relationships between the co-workers, sometimes sexual, tends to change every episode.

"I try to never miss a show, because if I do I'll be completely lost next week," said Pyon.

Accumulating almost 2.5 million fans per season, "The Office" has been nominated, and has won many prestigious awards throughout the years such as an Emmy for Outstanding Comedy in 2006, a Writers Guild Award and the SAG awards.

"I think this is one of the best shows ever, and it should never go off the air," said Sawyer.

## Clay Johnson is 'slappin da bass, mon'

### The Celestials get 10 cent commission per song downloaded from iTunes

By Julie Parisi  
Weekend Editor

Music is said to be the speech of angels. The Celestials are a great example.

The Celestials are made up senior Clay Johnson and two friends from Fairfax High School, Max Keena and Mike Elliott. They have already released an indie album called "Happier Robotics."

This eight-song album was professionally recorded at a studio in North Carolina, and is currently available for purchase on iTunes. Every time one of their songs is downloaded, the band makes money.

Other ways of getting their music out while still making money, however, have proved to be more effective.

"Since we only make ten cents per download on iTunes, I usually sell people copies of our CD," said Johnson. "If people want one, they just ask me and I let them pay whatever they want. Sometimes they pay ten dollars, and sometimes they just get it for free."

Any money that the band makes off CD sales and iTunes downloads goes toward pay-



MySpace Band member and fellow Spartan, senior Clay Johnson and his band are making money off iTunes when fans download their songs. Although this is helping them, they still like to personally sell their fans their CDs.

## iTunes pushes away patrons

By Jennifer Nguyen  
Oracle Staff Writer

The recent economic recession has already dramatically altered and caused problems for America's workforce, but now it has affected our iTunes library.

Due to demands from various music artists and constant pressure from the music industry, Apple has raised the price for downloading songs from \$.99 to \$1.29.

The change took place at the beginning of April. Apple believes that if customers are desperate for the new hit singles on iTunes they would be willing to pay the additional \$.30 for the song.

It's highly unlikely that people would want to pay more for a song that they can illegally find elsewhere. If anything it only promotes the use of illegal downloading.

If the majority of the population already downloads music illegally because they're too cheap, then how does the increase price of songs motivate us to purchase music on iTunes?

"I rarely buy music on iTunes," said junior Maya Halthore. "Maybe twice, but I only bought it because it wasn't on Limewire."

iTunes new price change detours previous loyal customers away from purchasing more music because iTunes is now asking more for a song than many believe its worth.

"I'd buy iTunes music for \$.99, but if it

It's highly unlikely that people would want to pay more for a song that they can illegally find elsewhere. If anything it only promotes the use of illegal downloading.

goes higher than that I won't," said junior Dana Pitts. "I'd rather download illegally than pay \$1.29 because that's a total rip off."

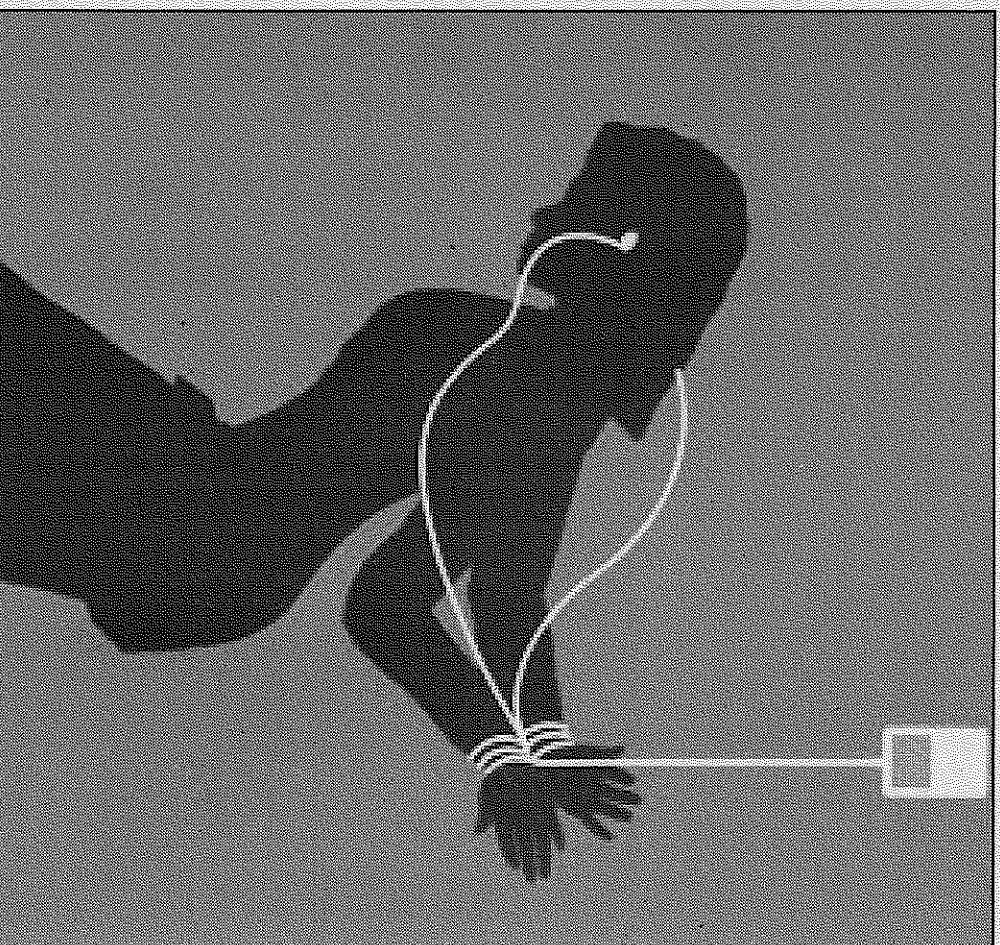
For those who still believe in doing the right thing by purchasing music instead of stealing, it makes more sense to buy an album at a music store than to be overcharged by iTunes.

The average cost for a CD is about \$13 which probably contains 12 to 13 songs. Basically that's \$.99 per song, and it's the same price range as the previous iTunes fee.

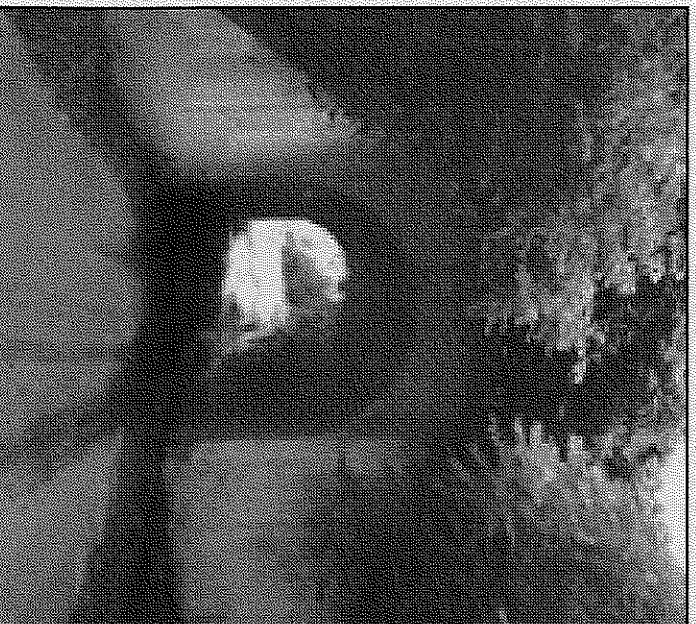
"CDs are better because CDs are about a dollar a song and you get something more tangible," said Halthore.

iTunes decision in raising song prices is another threat to killing the music industry and economy. If the majority of the population were given the ultimatum to either download free music or to be ripped off by unreasonable prices, it wouldn't be a hard decision.

"iTunes is punishing their few customers," said Halthore.



Apple iTunes is losing its fan-base by raising prices on downloads. Now most songs are purchasable for \$1.29 which is more expensive than the previous price of 99 cents. iTunes customers are now moving toward downloading illegally.



Strange USA

# Spooks at Bunnyman Bridge

*The legend of a mentally ill masked attacker*

**By Katie Kinzel**  
*Forum Editor*

Fairfax County is home to one of the biggest urban legends in the nation: Bunnyman Bridge.

Although many versions of the story have circulated, it is based along the lines that there was an asylum deep in the forest of Clifton that a mentally crazed convict escaped from.

The mad escapee would dress up in a bunny costume then attack people, mostly drunken teenagers, with an axe and then hang them from a concrete bridge of a railway overpass on Halloween.

The Bunny Man was is rumored to be responsible for the deaths of two children in the Clifton area, the disappearances of others, and animals that were found horribly mutilated.

Though it is said to be a legend, there are many who believe the story is true. The bridge has now become a common place for many northern Virginians, especially teenagers, who want to see if the legend is true or simply scare others.

Bunnyman Bridge gets a lot of visitors Halloween night but the police are always there to make sure things don't get too wild.

Many visitors have experienced spooky encounters at the bridge, junior Katie Phinmassone's car stalled while she was visiting the bridge with friends on a Friday night.

"The road the bridge is on is really narrow and creepy," said Phinmassone. "After we got out of the car it definitely felt like someone was watching."

Phinmassone does not believe in the legend but believes that there was a mental hospital there before and that someone did escape.

Others don't believe in the legend at all; senior Sean Knittle takes this position on the story.

"After I visited I researched it and none if it is true," said Knittle. "There's no asylum or anything there."

While he does not believe in the legend, Knittle likes to take his friends to see the bridge when he is in Centerville visiting his dad.

The bridge is still a popular destination for those who want to explore the legend and get a good scare.

"It's something fun to see if there's nothing to do on a Friday night," said Phinmassone.

# Looking for more than just a few fish?

*The Baltimore Aquarium provides sanctuary to all sea-creature lovers*

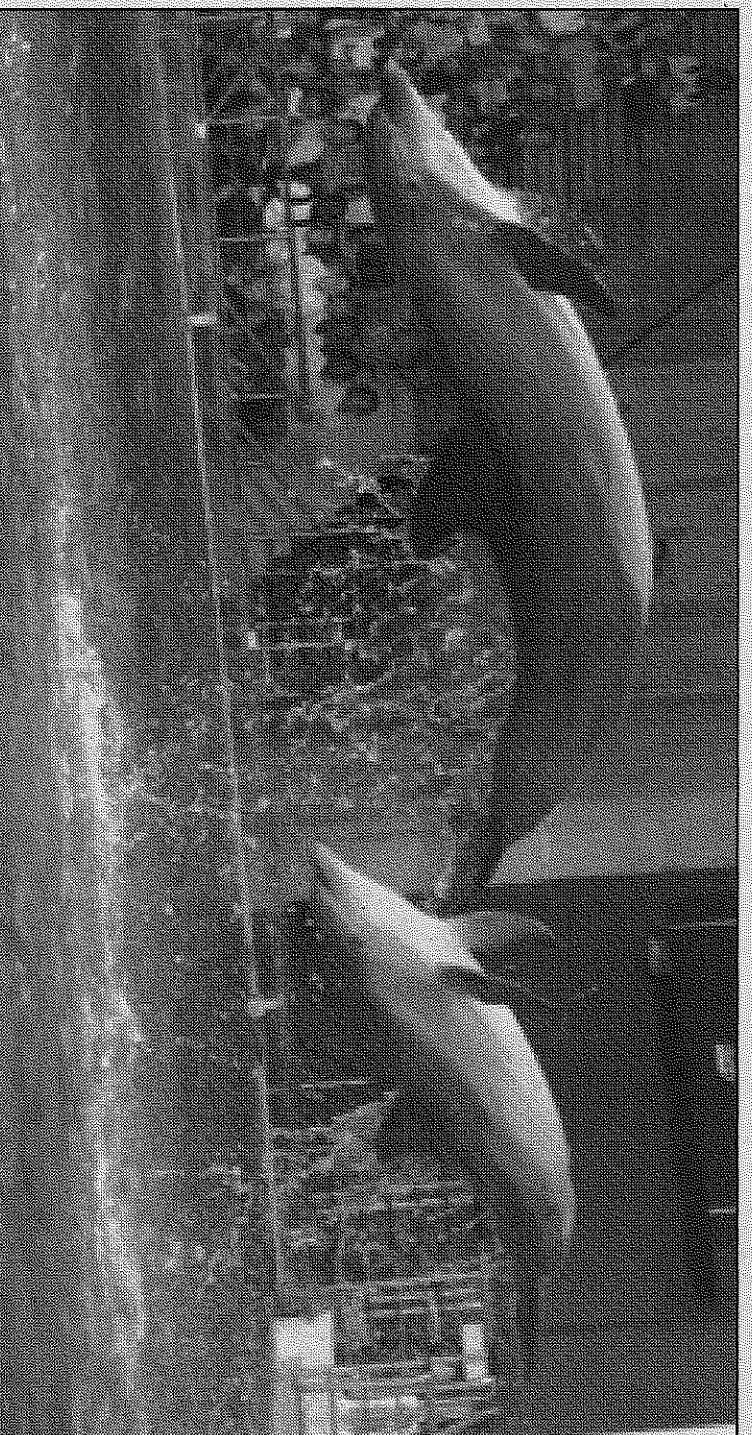
**By Susan Nguyen**  
*Page One Editor*

If you're a fan of the shiny, the scaly, and the coldblooded, then the National Aquarium in Baltimore is the right place for you. And lucky for you squeamish ones, the aquarium is also the home to many warm-blooded creatures too. For only \$30 (or less if you're a child or senior), you can see the over 16,000 specimens of aquatic animals.

At the aquarium, you'll never be bored. It offers fun for those of all ages through its many exhibits, such as its newly added Dolphin Encounter program and 4-D movie theater. The Dolphin Encounter starts off with participants viewing "Our Ocean Planet: The New Dolphin Show" and then moving on to actually interacting with the dolphins. This meeting is not likely something you'll soon forget, as not everyone will have had the chance to say they've been on a play date with these sea dwelling mammals.

At the National Aquarium, no scanty 3-D theater will do. Instead, it presents its brand new 4-D Immersion Theater playing "Planet Earth: Shallow Seas." It even comes complete with "water mist, wind, a neck air blast, snow, bubbles, steam, leg ticklers, scents, enhanced floor lighting and seat vibrations."

You might actually forget you're at the aquarium, and thank you're at Disney World. Besides dolphins and movies, the aquarium offers a myriad of alternatives. These include a



Baltimore About

Eager visitors watch as dolphins perform flips and other tricks during Our Ocean Planet. The New Dolphin Show. During the show, you explore the world of dolphins and get to interact with the dolphins and their talented trainers. You'll flip for these lovable creatures!

So next time you're perusing the internet, walk down a spiral staircase surrounded by a continuous shark tank and an Australia section home to filled lizards, rainbow lorikeets, and laughing kookaburras.

**You might actually forget you're at the aquarium, and think you're at Disney World.**

feel free to preorder your tickets to avoid the long wait in line. Or better yet, get a member-

ship and you'll get in for free the rest of the year and avoid the wait entirely as members get immediate entry. And while you're already on the site, you can also check out the handy "interactive trip planner" for those of you who like to think ahead.

So bring all of your friends (or family if you must) down to the Baltimore Aquarium if you're looking for an educational, and even more importantly, fun time.



Good Luck Lady Spartans!



**VIOLETA WARNER**

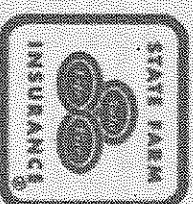
REALTOR®

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE  
7202 Old Keene Mill Road  
Springfield, VA 22150  
Office: 703-451-9400  
Direct: 703-452-3960  
Cell: 703-282-9779  
Fax: 703-451-8023  
Violeta.Warner@LongandFoster.com  
www.violetawarner.lftr.com



**State Farm®**  
Providing Insurance and Financial Services  
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710

**Bob Vernola Ins Agcy Inc**  
Bob Vernola, Agent



7880 Backlick Road, Suite 4, Springfield, VA 22150-2210  
Bus 703 569 0800 Fax 703 569 8700  
bob.vernola.bufr@statefarm.com

24 Hour Good Neighbor Service®

# Lacrosse struggles with shorter season

By Emmie Cleveland  
Sports Editor

Just as the lacrosse teams were getting into the swing of things, their season ends.

The soccer teams have 13 regular season games and baseball and softball have 15. The lacrosse teams play only nine. Their season lasts about a month and a half and then Districts begin. That leaves little time to grow, both individually and as a team.

"I feel like people would improve a lot more if we had more time," said freshman Varsity lacrosse player Savannah Pinnata. A longer season would consist of both more practices and more games.

"[With more games] the coaches might be more generous with playing time and people wouldn't get mad about it," said Pinnata.

The benefits pile up. More practice leads to improvement, more improvement leads to more games means more available playing time and more available playing time leads to a closer team bond.

"On my old SYC team we all played and we all depended on each other, so we played really well together as a team," said Pinnata. Girls and boys alike agree that there are major advantages to an extended season.

"I think a longer season would be especially beneficial for freshman and sophomores who have just started playing," said senior Varsity lacrosse player Mike Barry.

While lacrosse may seem typical here at WS, it is a relatively new sport and is still gaining popularity. It is mostly played in the northeast and along the eastern border.

"The sport of lacrosse is growing in the area, with that growth we can add games," said Girls' Varsity Head Coach Brian Philleck.

Philleck remembers when lacrosse first began as a club sport at WS, and seemed pleased to report that every high school in our region now has a lacrosse team. Still, the teams available to play are limited.

"I'd like to get more games in. We could compete more with private teams and teams from Maryland," said Boys Varsity Head



Photo Courtesy of Sean Phelan  
Senior captain Sean Phelan defends a charging attackman on the TC Williams Titans. The boys Varsity team went on to win the Patriot District Championship against Annandale.

Coach Scott Settar.

Coaches and players have high hopes for the broadening of lacrosse's popularity. More kids have started playing earlier and more students are trying out for the high school teams.

"Lacrosse is probably the fastest growing sport," said Barry, "but it's still not as popular as soccer, football or baseball, so we don't have as much support."

## Nationals Park gives few fans something to talk about

By Ryan Miller  
Business/Systems Assistant

The Nationals started the season with six wins and seven teen losses, but with 139 games to go they still have time for a comeback.

"I don't think they are off to a good start, but I think they can turn it around," said senior David Halle. "With players like Zimmerman and Johnson it is only a matter of time for them to get on a winning streak."

Fans are getting upset, because the team is not performing well. Johnson is their best player now with a .341 batting average, which is pretty good, but the problem is he's way ahead of everyone else and can not make up for them.

"They have potential with the new field, countless die-hard fans and all of their young players, but they are a new team and can't handle the pressure," said junior Eric Cecchetti.

Some people are not surprised or worried about the Nationals losing record.

"I am a Red Sox fan so I don't really care about the Nationals," said junior Tom Klime. "I expected them to be pretty bad because they did not do well last year either."

The new stadium, however, is at least one thing that all the fans are happy about. Conveniently located by a Metro station and with plenty of parking it is easy to get to and easy to leave.

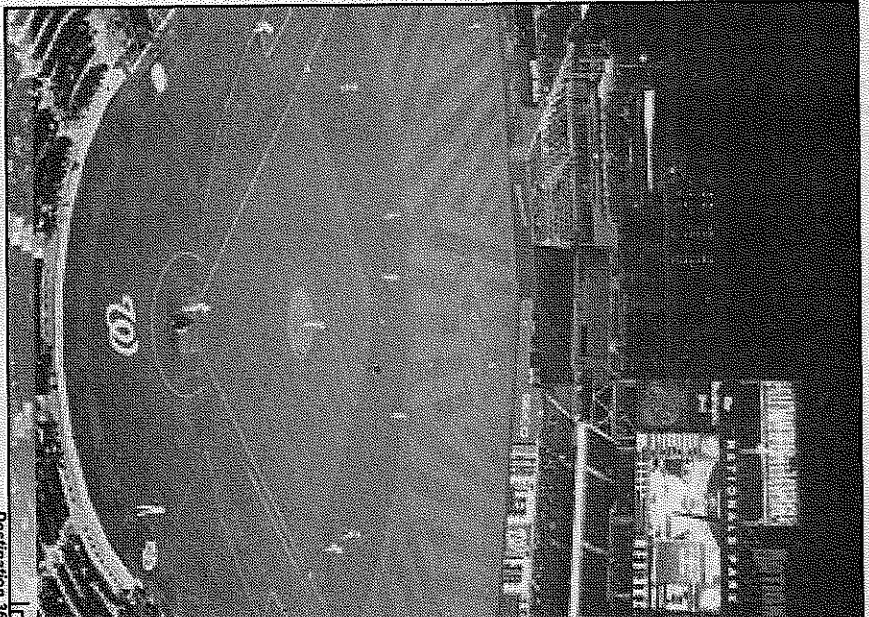
"Nationals Park Rules!" said Rasmussen. "It has great food and good views, also the seats are available for very reasonable prices."

Even with the new stadium some fans are still not happy and are starting to blame and get angry with the players.

"It's dreadful," said junior Erik Rasmussen. "The players are getting paid a lot of money but don't show any results on the field. We just got them a new stadium and that should be incentive for the players to do better because the city put a lot of money into them and it shows that we are all behind them."

Others are down trodden because of their poor playing and consistently having the worst record in baseball. But they still remain loyal fans cheering them on through the thick and the thin.

"I have been a Nationals fan since the team was reborn, and it breaks my heart to see them losing but I still haven't given up hope," said Halle. "If worst comes to worst there is always next year."



Destination 360

The new Nationals Park hasn't done much to help the Nationals win more games.

## Sports Lobby parking causes frenzy Spring athletes fight for limited parking spots for after-school practice

By Julie Parisi  
Weekend Editor

Every day when the buses leave to take students home from school, the usual hectic scramble in the Sports Lobby parking lot begins as people compete for the closest spots to the field.

In their scramble to get to practice, many students start driving aggressively in an attempt to beat others to the best parking spots. The speed limit on all school property is 15 miles per hour, and while a lot of people respect that, there are also many who go as fast as they need to in order to get their desired space.

"People speed for spots," said sophomore Mary Walsh. "They take mine all the time and I have to park down by the softball field."

Other students, however, find that they have no problem getting a reasonable spot. Usual driving eti-

quette dictates that the first person who signals for a spot is entitled to it, when people respect this, parking becomes easy and road rage and danger decrease.

"I always find a spot," said sophomore Ennis Alsaadi. "People are usually very kind, and if you have your blinker on they'll let you in."

About 70 percent of car accidents that involve cars backing up occur in parking lots, and it doesn't help that the Sports Lobby lot is shaped so that the aisles between rows of spaces are narrow. But the forceful or impatient nature of some drivers is what increases the chances that an accident will occur.

"Some people are aggressive," said junior Ryan Schlobach. "But if you drive carefully you should be fine."

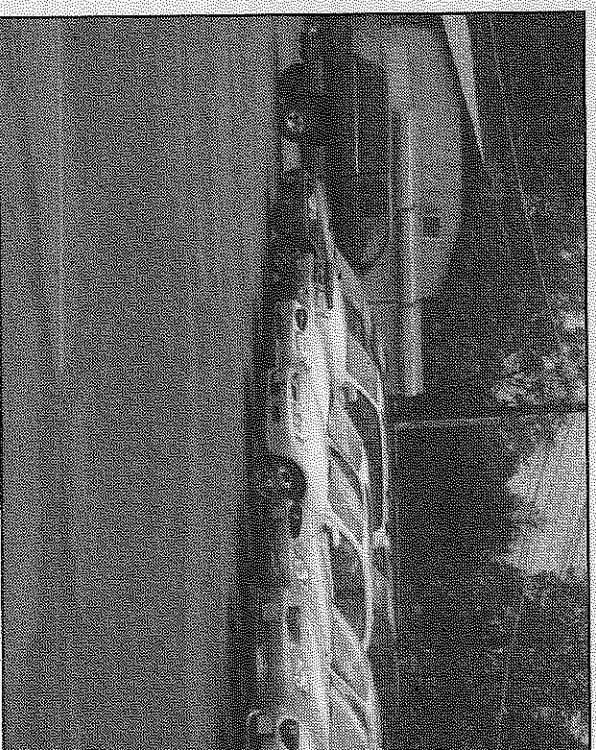
The lot gets very congested with parents dropping off kids and up- perclassmen trying to park, there-

fore people start to park improperly along the fence and near the trailers to save time. This creates tight situations for other cars trying to get through. A simple resolution would be to add more parking spaces so that people can park in a legitimate spot without too much competition.

"I always find a spot. People are usually very kind, and if you have your blinker on they'll let you in."

—Ennis Alsaadi,  
Sophomore

"I do feel that the school is worked up on parking in non park-



Julie Parisi

Many athletes have difficulty finding a parking spot near their fields.

ing zones," said senior Danny Scorse. "There's an easy solution: want regardless of what the school does."

# Hey wat tyme is pract. 2day?

**By Divya Goel**  
*Business Systems Assistant*

Students texting other students has always been common, but lately athletes have been texting their coaches, most of whom are teachers here at WS.

Texting your coach has become just as common as texting your friends. This is done to find out about practice times, general questions and get some constructive criticism. "I normally text Coach Puhlick about practice times," said senior lacrosse player, Rachel Tomlinson. "He tells us at practice but I always forget."

Texting between teammates and coaches may mean communication about practice times has gone down and led to confusion. The main sources of knowing practice times and team announcements besides your coach are the morning announcements and the whiteboard in the cafeteria.

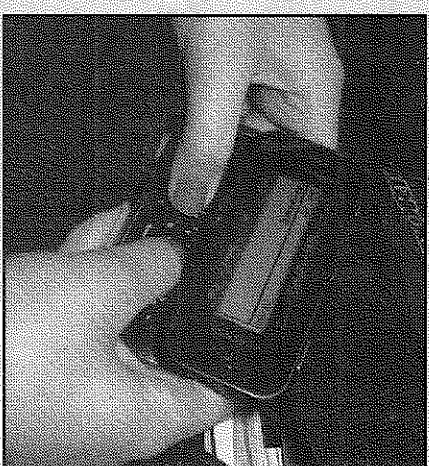
"A lot of the time when I go to the cafeteria to check what time our practice is there's nothing written there," said sophomore lacrosse player Elliot Chang. "It also gets really confusing because our practice times change a lot."

The morning announcements may have contributed to the added confusion about team events leading to texting. The slideshow

style announcements make it very difficult to find the specific event you are looking for. Some teams do not even have their team's information on the slide show.

"I do not text Coach Scott that much but when I do it is because I have a question," said senior softball player Sydney Button. "I never see anything about softball on the announcements and sometimes the whiteboard is updated too late."

Some athletes meet with their coaches during school to find out practice times or talk about past or upcoming games. If these students have lunch or are out of a class they can meet with their coach who may have a planning period.



*Krista Pedersen*

Texting is used as a means of communication between players and coaches.

"The communication about practice times is improving," said Button. "It used to not be very good and now it is okay."

# A fond farewell to 2009 senior athletes

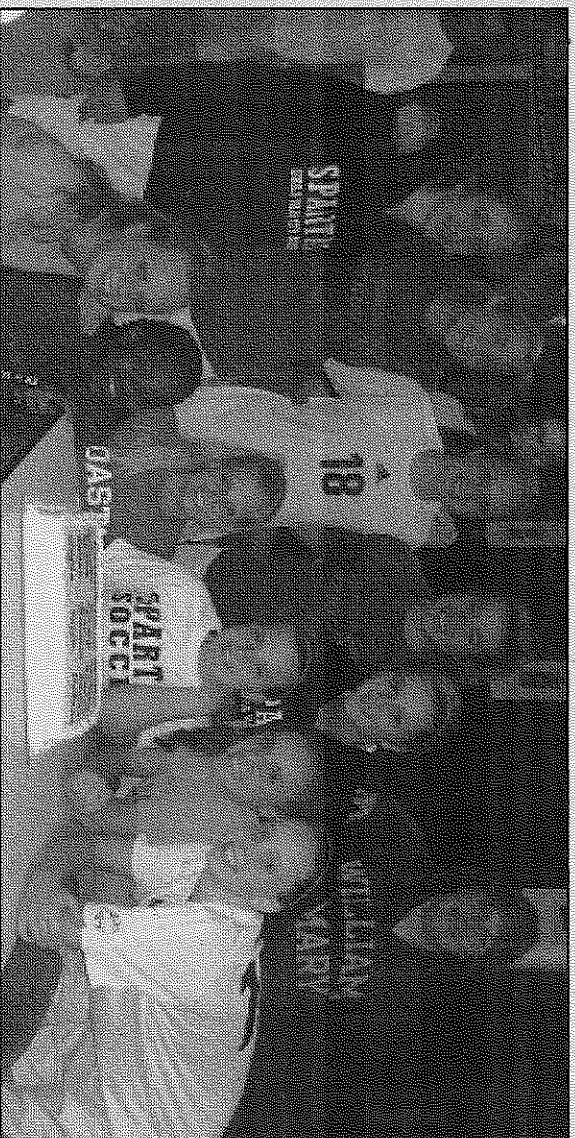
**By Lacey Woolf**  
*Viewpoint Editor*

For most sports teams, senior night is the last home game of the regular season. The purpose of senior night is to honor the seniors and all of their achievements.

The senior athletes are escorted across the field by their families. "It always feels good to be pampered especially when I did my time on the team," said senior Jesse Gonzalez, a member of the girl's soccer team.

Although senior night is fun for the seniors, it is much more stressful for the coaches, parents and underclassmen. On the girls lacrosse and soccer teams, the underclassmen are in charge of a lot of the planning for the night.

"The financial load for the juniors, sophomores, and freshman was big this year," said senior Katie Scanlon, also a member of the girl's



*Russ Adams*

The girls soccer team celebrates their 12 seniors with pizza and a personalized cake in the cafeteria after their senior night game against Yorktown High School.

varsity soccer team. "They had to pay \$21 each to cover the cost of the senior night shirts."

It is tradition for all the seniors girls Varsity lacrosse team, almost all of the seniors started and played on a team to start in this last home game of the regular season. On the majority of the game.

"All of our seniors started except for one who was out of town for the game," said senior Rachel Tomlinson.

However this rule did not apply for the girl's soccer seniors this season.

"This year was going to be a little different because there are 12 seniors this year so not all of us were able to start," said Scanlon.

Unlike the boy's teams, the girls often receive gifts from their underclass teammates. The girl's Varsity lacrosse seniors are given bears, with their names embroidered on the jackets. The parents wear buttons with their senior's faces on them too. The night is all about the seniors.

Senior night honors the seniors on the teams and their accomplishments and leaves the underclassmen excited for their senior year.

"Senior night is a lot of fun and it's a great way to honor the seniors," said Tomlinson.

# Learning by experience

## Sports Medicine students go hands-on

**By Danielle Mazzuchi**  
*Features Editor*

The key to one's success is in their drive. It is hard for a student to enroll in a class that will be thoroughly enjoyable.

However, Sports Medicine offers an opportunity that will enrich the students' motivation. Sports Medicine is an elective offered for students. The decision to evoke in the class is merely do to interest. There is an opportunity for the students to get a more practical experience in the field, with a hands on experience such as shadowing the instructor.

"Instead of learning and taking notes," said Ford. "There are the select few who actually decide to take up this task." In the process, the trainees have a list of tasks to fulfill. As students are graded based upon the end product, the students realize the mistakes made and how to go upon correcting them.

"It is an interactive course," said junior Ana Paris. "We get to perform the duties that the trainers would do and understand the process better."

Earlier in the school year, the students in the Sports Medicine class embarked on a field trip to the Walter Reed National Museum of Health and Medicine. The background knowledge from a historical sight is essential from the pertinent information. Adding into the students' perception of Sports Medicine, the understanding of the human anatomy is the bare minimum.

"We are offered opportunities to perform procedures," said sophomore Lauren Bullard. "Watching in on our instructors and learning from their habits are helpful."

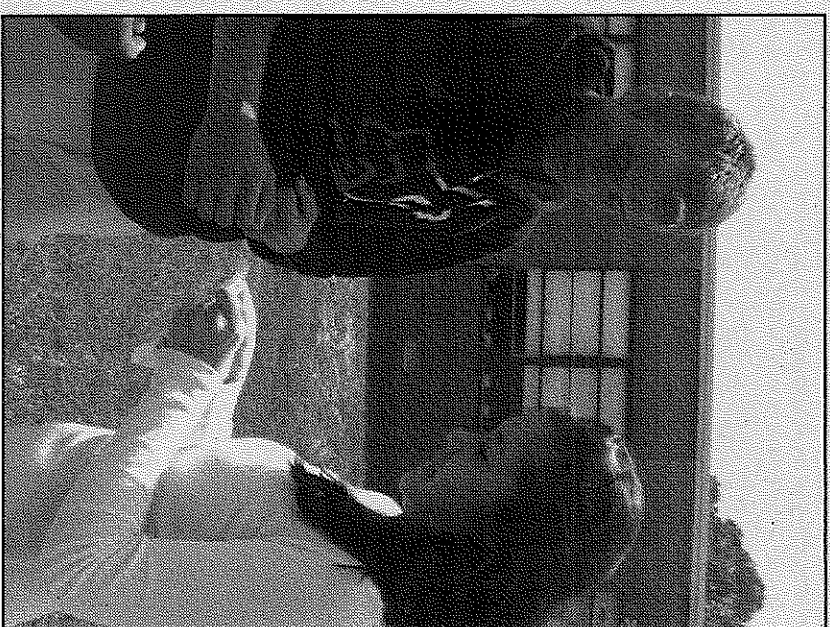
Awarded the opportunity to have an early experience of what one decides to do later in life is encouraging.

"I want to be a Pediatric Physical Therapist," said Paris. With the same general idea, Bullard wants to pursue a career in Sports Medicine.

"I take an academy class this year," said Bullard. "It is for EMT and I am highly interested in the class."

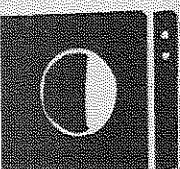
Being attentive is critical to the passing of the course. It is accumulative knowledge that will be vital for future endeavors.

"Not many decide to take this class," said Ford. "Those who take it show a genuine interest in Sports Medicine."



*Krista Pedersen*

Sophomore Lauren Bullard, a student trainer, wraps senior Joey Morway's wrist before baseball practice.



**Laundromat**  
Wash n' Dry

3059 Leonardtown Rd.  
Woldorf, MD 20601

Jenny Cho  
Jerry Cho  
(301)-645-9794

- Drop off service
- Alterations
- Dry-clean



**WAPTAN**

Family Restaurants

703-503-5800    703-550-5003

9542 Burke Road    6430 Landsdowne Centre  
Burke, VA 22015    Alexandria, VA 22315

